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20 AUGUST 1986

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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BAHAMAS

CHARGES OF IRREGULARITIES, DENIALS ATTEND BY-ELECTION

Ballot-Box Questions

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 1 Jul 86 p 1

[Article by Alexis Wallace]

[Text]

WHEN PLP and FNM agents met at Yellow Elder Primary this morning to recount yesterday's ballots they found one ballot missing from polling division No. 6.

Also discovered were fifty unused ballots from the 1982 general election contest between Paul Adderley and Frank Watson, complete with counterfoils. These were found in a ballot box from polling division No. 2 when that box was opened at 11:30 this morning.

These ballots were supposed to have been sealed after the election. The box should only be unsealed by court order.

The FNM today appealed to Attorney General Paul Adderley and the Registrar's Office to investigate the matter.

Returning Officer Kendrick Williams presided over today's recount.

It was at polling division No. 6 yesterday that Dion Foulkes, an FNM agent, had demanded to see certain papers that he claimed the presiding officer had in his pocket. Mr Foulkes was shown one of the papers, but insisted that there were two more. Lawyer James Knowles and Peter Galanis were also present as FNM agents and witnessed the exchange between the two.

Yesterday morning 500 ballots were given to the presiding officer in polling division number 6 by the Parliamentary Registrar's department. The official count this morning found only 499 ballots in the box.

Of those 499, 240 were used by voters; 249 were not used. "Therefore one ballot is actually missing and the presiding officer Mr Kendrick Williams, was unable to locate that ballot this morning," Mr Foulkes said.

There was an exchange of words between Kendal Nottage and Mr Foulkes this morning at the recount when Mr Foulkes pointed out that Mr Nottage headed the PLP agents in polling division number 6 yesterday.

"From polling division number two," said Mr Foulkes, "50 unused ballots complete with counterfoils were found in the ballot box when it was opened today around 11:30 am."

The 50 unused ballots had the names P. Adderley and F. Watson. "Next to P Adderley," said Mr Foulkes, "there was the sign of the hand and next to Watson was the sign of the torch.

"These 50 ballots, according to the presiding officer, who was Mrs Knowles, were along with four other ballot books which had the proper marks on them: Moxey and Rose."

Mr Foulkes said no one knows how they got in that box. "Mr Kenrick Williams, the presiding officer, did not know, neither did the returning officer.

"From what I understand, if these ballots were used in 1982 in Carmichael, they should have been sealed and secured somewhere and only to be opened by court order.

"How they got in polling division number 2 in St Barnabas on June 30th is a complete mystery. This is something that the Registrar should investigate, and the Attorney General should investigate immediately."

Details From Polling Stations

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 2 Jul 86 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER Lynden Pindling stopped election officers from conducting the traditional ballot count at voters station no 2 before the polls opened in St Barnabas Monday, election agent Cedric Parker said today.

Fifty unused ballots from the 1982 general elections were found in a ballot box from that station when the ballots were recounted at 11.30 yesterday morning. A ballot was discovered missing from station no 6.

No mention was made of the discovery on the first count.

Lisa Foulkes, another FNM agent posted at station 2, said the ballot box was turned upside down before the polls opened to make certain it was empty.

"We banged the bottom and nothing came out. Those ballots were not in the box when the polls opened Monday morning. That's impossible. They were put in at some other point," she said.

By noon today, The Tribune newsroom had received disturbing reports about other

election irregularities. As the day wore on the number of reports increased.

Among them, it was reported that:

- Two ballots were cast at station 2 under the same woman's name using the same voters registration number. The first person voted on a passport; the second used a voter's card.

- An authorized FNM election agent was forced to leave one of the stations after he discovered that an elderly, frail man he assisted into the station was given a spoiled ballot. Agent Desmond Edwards said the ballot, only moments before, was unmarked and that the presiding officer was about to put it back in the book after the defect had been called to his attention. It should have been marked "spoiled."

Mr Edwards said this type of incident could create suspicion about "floating" ballots.

Parliamentary Registrar Creswell Sturup could not explain today how the fifty unused 1982 ballots got in the

St Barnabas ballot box. The ballots, complete with counterfoils, had the names P Adderley and F Watson - the 1982 Carmichael candidates - on them.

He said the matter would be investigated if it is "deemed necessary."

By 2.30 this afternoon, he said he had not received any official complaints about election irregularities.

"I believe that (the election) was conducted very fairly. The eyes of the whole country were focused on St Barnabas that day," Mr Sturup said.

Mr Edwards said he was forced to leave station no 8 at St Cecilia's School after protesting that a spoiled ballot was about to be given to a voter.

Mr Edwards said he helped an elderly man, Cleveland Dames of Palmetto Avenue, into the station because of his frail physical condition.

Mr Dames could read and see well enough, and he wanted to mark his own ballot, he said.

"He was immediately challenged" by Donna Smith, a

PLP agent and lawyer at Seligman and Maynard.

Mr Edwards said that when he went into the station, he noticed a clean ballot in a book on the presiding officer's table.

"Mr Sawyer tore out the ballot and put the necessary notations on back of the ballot and on the counterfoil. He had it in front of him while Mr Dames took an oath. I looked over at the table again and noticed a mark. There was a line under the crab (the PLP symbol). It could have been from a nail which had ink on it. It looked like the nail may have scratched against the ballot," Mr Edwards said.

"Before he handed it to Mr Dames, I said 'look at the ballot. There is a mark on it.'"

Mr Edwards said that the other two FNM agents looked at the ballot and confirmed that it was marked.

When Mr Sawyer handed the ballot to Mr Dames, Mr Edwards said: "No, that ballot has a mark on it. I confirmed that there was a mark."

Mr Sawyer took the ballot back and was about to put it in the book, before writing up a new ballot for Mr Dames.

"I said 'no. That ballot must be marked spoiled.' He gave Mr Dames the new ballot.

"Then all of a sudden, he started shouting. He said 'get this man (Edwards) out of here.'"

Mr Edwards pointed out that he was a duly authorized election agent and he was entitled to be inside the polling station.

He said Mr Sawyer called for two policemen saying "I do not care if he is an agent or not, get this man out."

Two policemen arrived to evict Mr Edwards. He said he walked out under his own steam.

Mr Edwards said he was very embarrassed by the incident.

Mr Sturup said he was not aware of the incident, but that a presiding officer had the authority to evict someone who was being "disruptive."

Mr Parker said he arrived at station 2 in Jumbey Village at about 7 am Monday. He said the building did not open until about 7:45am - 15 minutes before the polls were due to open.

He said he asked the returning officer to count the ballots. There were supposed to be 11 books containing 50 ballots each. There were almost 500 registered voters in polling division 2.

"Mr Pindling said, 'You're not in court man.' I kept insisting on a count," he said.

Mr Parker said he went to the door and called for reinforcements, but none was available. He refused to leave his post.

Mr Parker said that he and Sir Lynden had an exchange.

At one point, Sir Lynden accused him of "trying to hold up the proceedings."

Mr Parker also reported that a woman used a passport to vote. Later in the day, another woman by the same name came in with a voter's card with the same registration number.

He said the FNM challenged the woman and Kendrick Williams, presiding officer and permanent secretary at the Ministry of Works, conferred with the agents. It was agreed that the woman would vote on a protest ballot.

Shortly afterwards - before the woman voted - Minister of Works Darrell Rolle arrived and "the argument started again."

Mr Parker said Allyson Maynard joined in the argument.

Mr Parker said that Ft Charlotte MP Valentine Grimes, who agreed that Rolle should vote on a protest ballot, did an about face. He said he saw Mr Williams begin to buckle to pressure. He said he realized it was a futile argument so he went back to his post. The woman voted on a regular ballot, he said.

Mr Parker said another incident occurred when the birth dates on a person's voter's card and the counterfoil were different. He said the person was allowed to vote.

PLP MP's Analysis

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 2 Jul 86 pp 1, 14

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

THE PARLIAMENTARY Registrar must explain to the nation how 50 unused ballots from the 1982 general election ended up in one of the ballot boxes from Monday's St Barnabas bye-election, former Housing and National Insurance Minister Hubert Ingraham said today.

"I find it inconceivable that such a thing could happen," Mr Ingraham, PLP MP for Cooper's Town, said.

He said this points to either gross neglect or dereliction of duty on the part of election agents.

"It is so basic that almost anybody ought to know that before the polls open, every ballot should be inspected to ensure that everything is in order," he said.

Mr Ingraham said that without this, anything could happen.

He said this is the only way a political party has to safeguard against cheating.

"They are the persons who guarantee the fairness of an election," he said.

Mr Ingraham said commonsense says a ballot box should be turned upside down in order to determine that it is empty.

He said once a box is sealed and initialled, it would be difficult to tamper with it.

"How is it possible for 50 ballots marked for the Carmichael constituency in the last general elections could be found in one of the St Barnabas boxes? St Barnabas had its own boxes in 1982. Unless one of the St Barnabas boxes was destroyed or damaged, there is absolutely no need to use a Carmichael box," he said.

"But if there was a reason for it, then I would presume someone would have opened the

box" to make certain it was empty.

Mr Ingraham said that every ballot from the 1982 general elections should have been accounted for during the count and recount.

"There is a serious question to be answered by the Parliamentary Registrar. What were they doing there?" Mr Ingraham asked.

"I am shocked at the discovery and I am going to withhold any public comment until I hear an explanation from the Parliamentary Registrar because an explanation is due and required."

He said it would be very unusual for the Prime Minister to object to the presiding officer counting ballots before the polls open.

"I would be very surprised if that happened and, if that happened, that is clearly wrong from my point of view. I would be shocked if that was in fact done," he said.

Mr Ingraham said the best the Opposition could hope for from an election court is a decision that would govern the conduct of future elections. He said it is unacceptable to accept voter transfers on the day of an election.

"I do not believe that the matters about which they complain is sufficient to void an election," he said.

He said the FNM was clearly and decisively beaten and that Dr Matthew Rose of the PLP is the clear winner.

Mr Ingraham said the bye-election proved that the PLP machinery is far superior to that of the FNM.

"I have to take my hat off to Mr Pindling who used his experience and acted as a coordinator. The FNM have plenty of people with ability if

they apply themselves. They lacked the professionalism of the PLP's machine. The FNM has got to pay serious attention to its machine if they are to be a serious challenge to the PLP," he said.

He said the PLP knows its supporters, knows where they live and knew who needed transportation to the polls.

He said the FNM does not have this type of contact with its supporters.

"What's the use of having 1,000 supporters if only 300 of them vote?" he asked.

Mr Ingraham said he was not suggesting in any way that Sir Lynden should have been an election agent. He said there were others in the organisation who could have done what he did. He said he was not criticising FNM leader Kendal Isaacs.

He said that while the PLP had assigned duties, large numbers of FNMs stood around the polls Monday doing nothing.

"The FNM has as much talent as the PLP. It is only a question of energizing it and channelling it in the right direction. They could have done better Monday if they had organized themselves," he said.

Mr Ingraham said the FNM did not involve enough St Barnabas people in the election day programme.

He said the bye-election should be treated as an isolated case and is not reflective of a general election.

For instance, during the 1980 Rock Sound bye-election, PLP James Moultrie outpolled SDP candidate Dr David Sands 913 to 289, or by more than three to one.

In the 1982 general elections, Mr Moultrie beat Dr Sands on a vote of 866-647.

Not only did Dr Sands gain significantly more votes, but 311 more people voted in the general election.

Mr Ingraham said that Mr Moultrie lost support even though roads were paved and water turned on in Rock Sound between 1980-82.

Another example was during the October 1982 Grant's Town bye-election when PLP Bradley Roberts beat Jim Wood of the FNM 832-456. Mr Wood polled 233 fewer votes than he did in the general election only four months earlier when he ran against the late Shadrack Morris. Again, voter turnout in the bye-election was poor.

"The FNM did a poor job in getting their supporters to the polls to vote. The PLP knew where their voters were and who needed transportation. The PLP was well organised, and this was all the voters they could get. Either the others had moved out of the area, or the rest were not likely to vote for them," he said.

Mr Ingraham said that with all the machinery at their disposal, the PLP should have been able to beat Mr Moxey by a larger margin.

The FNM said Friday that at least 800 registered voters had moved out of the area. Mr McWeeney said a PLP survey indicated that between 600-800 had moved from the area where there is a high number of rental homes.

Mr Ingraham said the FNM knew there would be confusion at the polls over transfers and they could not use this as an excuse.

"On top of that, the fact that they had argued publicly that the old register should not be used might have sent a signal to supporters not to vote. They did not make a significantly clear case to their supporters to come out and vote. A number of

them would have been confused by this," he said.

Monday was also the first time in living memory that the Parliamentary Registrar established a facility to accommodate voter transfers outside a polling division, he said.

"This leaves room for all sorts of things to happen," he said.

For instance, someone could swear an affidavit using the identity of a dead person, Mr Ingraham said. The Parliamentary Registrar would not have a photograph on file outside the station as a means of checking the person's identity.

"There would be no means by which they could determine the person's identity, unless someone (inside the station) objects," he said.

He said last minute voter transfers should not be allowed to happen.

It was generally felt that Prime Minister Lynden Pindling's presence in polling division no one as a PLP agent would have an intimidating effect on voters, especially those employed by Government.

Said one political observer: "It would take a lot of nerve for the average voter to look the Prime Minister in the eye and vote against his candidate. It is unusual and would only have the effect of intimidating the voter."

Mr Ingraham said it is absolutely essential that there be certainty which register is going to be used in the general elections.

He said that large numbers of people in PLP and FNM T-shirts were hanging around the polling stations yesterday which had an intimidating affect.

He said that only designated workers should be allowed on the premises.

FNM 'Intimidation' of Voters

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 4 Jul 86 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

PLP Chairman Senator Sean McWeeney today strongly urged Government to consider amending the Representation of the People Act to "restrict" the number of persons each party's candidate can have outside a polling station.

Sen McWeeney accused supporters of the official opposition Free National Movement of doing their utmost to disrupt the orderly conduct of Monday's bye-election and behaving in a "hooliganistic, raucous and threatening manner" at all three voting stations.

The Chairman discussed intimidation during a press conference at Gambier House today. The conference was called to dispute FNM charges that there had been irregularities in the St Barnabas bye-election.

"While on the subject of intimidation, the public needs to know that on Monday, it was the FNM that was doing the intimidating, not Lynden Pindling or the PLP," he said.

"At each of the three polling places groups of FNM supporters did their utmost to disrupt the orderly conduct of the election and behaved throughout in a hooliganistic, raucous and threatening manner," he said.

"If the voters were intimidated by anything they were intimidated by that," Sen McWeeney said.

He said that it represented a new low in electoral politics and condemned the FNM for "staging so brutish and uncivilized, so debasing and unseemly a performance."

He said that many others have already commented publicly on the matter and that

he agreed with Cooper's Town MP Hubert Ingraham's comments on that aspect of the elections.

"For my part, I strongly urge the Government to give early consideration to amending the Representation of the People Act to restrict the number of persons which each party's candidate can have outside a polling station," he said.

He said that the Act already limits the number of election agents who can be inside the polling station and it is in the interest of guaranteeing the continuity of free and fair elections as well as in the interest of public order for the Act to be amended.

He said this will prevent either party, the PLP or FNM, or any other candidate, or any other group from congregating in numbers anywhere near a polling station.

"On election day, people should vote and then go home, and not be milling about and carrying on in a manner which is or may be calculated to intimidate persons who are waiting to exercise their franchise," Sen McWeeney said.

"I hope that these amendments will be forthcoming in early course and that the FNM will see the wisdom in supporting them so that our democratic traditions might be preserved and enhanced," he added.

He termed as "nonsense" charges of alleged impropriety of Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling serving as an election agent for winning PLP candidate Dr Matthew Rose in polling divisions one and two.

"It was said that this was calculated to intimidate the voters," he said. "What utter nonsense."

He said that come the general elections, he supposed the FNM would be saying that the Prime Minister should not stand as a candidate because his presence would intimidate the voters in his constituency.

"The truth of the matter is that elections are regulated by the Representation of the People Act and there is absolutely nothing in that Act which debars Sir Lynden or anyone else from acting as an agent for a candidate," he said.

"As for the nonsense that we stationed Sir Lynden at polling division number one because we thought it to be a weak area for us, the statistics of the general elections of both 1977 and 1982 will show that polling division number one has always been our strongest area and that we have always scored in excess of 65 per cent, as indeed we did on Monday in the bye-election," the PLP Chairman said.

"Incidentally, it was my decision, not Sir Lynden's, that he work at polling division number one," he said. "He had indicated that he wanted to work on election day and I therefore requested that he work at polling division number one, which in fact he did."

"Either way, his presence had no adverse effect on the electoral process and it was entirely correct and proper and legal for him to act as an agent for the PLP during the election," Sen McWeeney said.

"It is therefore clear that this intimidation business is a figment of the FNM's imagination and an indication that the FNM's fear of Pindling has now been pumped up into full-blown paranoia," he said.

PLP Fairness Claim

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 4 Jul 86 pp 1, 10

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

PLP Chairman Senator Sean McWeeney today dismissed as a "red herring" FNM charges of irregularities in Monday's St Barnabas bye-election. He said the PLP won the poll fair and square.

At a press conference at Gambier House, Sen McWeeney also disputed the FNM claim that there was a low voter turn-out and that the results showed that the PLP had lost ground.

According to the PLP Chairman, the St Barnabas results represented a "handsome and decisive victory" for Dr Matthew Rose, the PLP and the leadership of Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling.

Dr Rose, a 31-year-old paediatrician, defeated FNM candidate Edmund Moxey, 52, by 937 to 609 votes, to succeed the late MP Sinclair Outten as the next St Barnabas representative in the House of Assembly.

The FNM has called the election a "total travesty." It has vowed to take the matter before the Election Court.

"I am not in the least bit surprised that having gotten the beating of its life on Monday in St Barnabas, the Free National Movement has since gone completely off its rocker," Sen McWeeney said today.

"From then till now, the FNM has been off and running from pillar to post with the most absurdly jack-assinine pack of lies, misinformation, diversionary tales and irrelevant clap-trap uttered in many a long year," he said.

He said that these "tantrums" have come to be seen as the most shocking spectacle of utterly "lousy sportsmanship and thoroughly sour grapes" in living memory.

He said that the FNM should hang its head in shame as soon as it recovers from the "outer regions of lunacy to which, in pieces, it has flung itself.

"In the meantime, it has become as clear as day that what the FNM has been trying desperately to do is to distract attention from the central significance of the bye-election, namely, that they got the pants beat off them and that the PLP won fair and square," Sen McWeeney said.

"The FNM can play as crazy as they like but there is no escaping that central, crystalline reality," the PLP Chairman said.

He said that Mr Moxey, a former Coconut Grove MP from 1967 until the constituency was incorporated into St Barnabas in the 1977 boundary changes, did rather well as the FNM candidate, carrying two polling divisions and gaining a hefty 43 per cent of the popular vote.

"There is no question about it. He did far better than any other FNM candidate in any other of the black belt constituencies and could take pride in his performance," he said.

However, Sen McWeeney said that on Monday, Mr Moxey and the FNM met with a "great, big blowout" when Dr Rose carried all eight polling divisions and increased the margin of victory to 60.5 per cent as against Mr Outten's 56.2 per cent in 1982.

"This represents an overall increase of 4.3 per cent," Sen McWeeney told the press conference.

He noted that ever since the Commission of Inquiry report, the FNM has been campaigning all over the country and in the local and foreign press on the theory that there had been a

"great swing" in the country towards the FNM and away from the PLP.

"If that was true, one would naturally have expected it to be reflected in the bye-election results," he said.

"But, entirely to the contrary and to the FNM's embarrassment, the results of the bye-election show only too clearly that if there has been a swing at all, it has been a swing of the FNM's to the PLP, and most assuredly not the other way around," he said.

He pointed out that the PLP registered increases in the bye-election over the 1982 elections of 3.5 per cent in polling division No 1; 11 per cent in No 3; just under 4 per cent in No 4; 6.5 per cent in No 5; 7.5 per cent in No 6; 6.7 per cent in No 7 and 4.5 per cent in No 8.

He said the only division where the margin of victory declined was in polling division No 2, which dropped by 2.5 per cent under the 1982 tally.

"I pause here to say that I find it more than a little ironic that polling division No 2, where the FNM says we cheated happens to be the polling division that the FNM did best in, the only polling division in which the FNM's performance was up over 1982, and the only one in which the PLP went down," he said.

"I take it, therefore, that we are really being accused of having cheated to help the FNM in polling division No 2," he said.

He said that the results demonstrated that there has been no electoral swing to the FNM, and that there has been a swing away from the FNM to the PLP as the governing party registered an overall increase of 4.3 per cent over 1982 and recaptured the two polling

divisions which the FNM had won in 1982.

"The St Barnabas results therefore represent a handsome and decisive victory for Dr Rose, the Progressive Liberal Party and the leadership of the Rt Hon Prime Minister," he said.

He said that it is unfortunate that the print media have given centre-stage to the post-election traumas of the FNM instead of concentrating their attention on the far-reaching political significance of the bye-election results.

He referred to Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs' statement that of the 3,000 registered voters, only 1,500 or a half turned out, and similar remarks by Mr Moxey.

He said that Mr Isaacs and his colleagues were all over the place and were quoted in the print media as saying that as many as 1,100 of the 2,972 registered voters had moved out of St Barnabas and were no longer eligible to vote.

He said that FNM Chairman Sen Charles Virgill was also quoted as saying that an FNM team had swept St Barnabas and that only about 1,800 people were around to vote, some 1,100 having moved out.

Sen McWeeney said that the FNM had urged those who had

moved out and were no longer eligible, to stay away from the polls, but having stayed away, the FNM is now blaming them for a "low voter turn-out."

He accused the FNM of talking out of both sides of the mouth and declared that the fact is that the FNM pleaded with the 1,100 ineligibles to stay away.

He said that of the 1,800 that remained and were eligible to vote, 1,547 voted, accounting for a voter turn-out of 85.9 per cent.

"An extremely high voter turn-out and one, moreover, which is almost symmetrically in line with the 86.7 per cent voter turn-out recorded for St Barnabas in 1982," he said.

"It only goes to show that the FNM has completely forgotten what its propaganda line was before the election or is simply too dumb to know the difference between last week and this week or to know how to count or all of the above," he said.

He also charged that Mr Moxey was more out of touch when he made a "bizarre" comment that the results showed that the PLP has lost ground because it got only 937 votes as compared with 1,300

votes in 1982.

He said that according to this logic, if the PLP lost ground, the FNM lost a whole continent as in 1982 it got 1,002 votes but on Monday obtained only 610, a drop of 40 per cent.

He said that Mr Moxey had gone to court seeking a register that would have allowed only 500 people to vote.

"If the election had been fought on that register and if every single person on that register had voted for Mr Moxey, it would have meant, according to Mr Moxey's reasoning, that since he had received 1,000 votes in 1982, the FNM, by winning 100 per cent of the vote but only 500 votes in the bye-election, would have lost ground by 50 per cent compared with its performance in 1982," Sen McWeeney said.

"I need not dwell on this little bit of illogic; it self-destructs under the weight of its own stupidity," he said.

"I need only to say that Mr Moxey is dead wrong: The PLP went up, way up, increasing its percentage of the vote from 56.2 per cent in 1982 to 60.5 per cent," he said. "It was the FNM that lost ground, and plenty ground at that."

FNM Disagreement

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 4 Jul 86 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

IT IS NOT true to say that the St Barnabas bye-election was fair and square. Cooper's Town MP (PLP) Hubert Ingraham said in taking issue with a statement his party's chairman made today.

Mr Ingraham said he was disappointed in Sean McWeeney's statement, which he found to be an emotional and lengthy discourse.

"He has written 14 pages in which he expresses great anger and disappointment notwithstanding the conclusions which he seeks to draw. I would hope that in the future he would

calmly and analytically review the results. If he did, I think some of the conclusions which he draws would be otherwise," said Hubert Ingraham (Cooper's Town).

Mr Ingraham said it is not true to say that the St Barnabas bye-election was fair and square.

"Mass confusion came about, mainly as a result of the voters register. Based on my conversations with a number of voters, a lot of persons stayed away from the polls because of the confusion over the register and intimidation by both the PLP and FNM," he said.

Mr Ingraham constantly moved about the eight polling divisions on election day monitoring the situation.

He said many PLPs stayed away from the polls out of protest, while FNMs did not vote because of unrelated reasons such as being afraid that they would be identified with the Opposition.

Mr Ingraham did not blame the chairman for taking credit for winning 50 per cent of the vote, "regard being had to what I am coming to conclude was a situation where a number of people voted more than once and a number of people who live outside the St Barnabas constituency voted."

He said the PLP should have had better results, having regard to all of the advantages it has as the governing party.

He said that bye-elections are isolated cases and it is expected by non partisan persons that the Opposition, generally speaking, cannot win.

He pointed to the 1980 Rock Sound bye-election when PLP candidate James Moultrie beat Dr David Sands of the SDP 913:289.

Less than two years later when the general election was held, Mr Moultrie beat Dr Sands by only 866:647.

Mr Ingraham could not fathom the rationale behind statements that only 1,800 of 2,972 registered voters were eligible to vote in St Barnabas.

"I would have thought that both parties, the PLP more than FNM, would be concerned

about the large number of people who didn't come to the polls," he said.

He said that Felix Bowe, the Prime Minister's council member, told The Guardian that 600-800 people had moved from the area. However, he said that 500 people have registered since February and, on balance, there should be roughly 2,400 eligible voters in St Barnabas.

Mr Ingraham said that no matter how the chairman looks at it, a substantial number of people, quite possibly 1,000, did not vote.

"The voter turn out at St Barnabas by any yardstick was very low and both parties, the PLP more than the FNM, should be concerned because inherent in that I think there is a message," he said.

"I don't think the chairman provided a mature assessment of the bye-election. I think he was doing what he accused the FNM of doing - being petty."

Mr Ingraham said that the Prime Minister has every right to be an election agent. Although this could be intimidating to the voter, he said this is an advantage the PLP has.

"I don't see the bye-election as any great victory. I would be disappointed in the results. I am disappointed from the PLPs viewpoint," he said. He thought the PLP should have been in a position to do a lot better.

He said Government could easily and constitutionally have given people the month of June in which to register and transfer into St Barnabas and held the

bye-election in July.

"The government obviously thought there was some advantage to be gained in confusion in seeking to combine the two registers," Mr Ingraham said. He felt this sent confusing signals to voters who did not want to get caught in the middle of a hassle.

Mr Ingraham said it is important that the Parliamentary Registrar should have a cut off date for transfers. He urged the Government and Opposition to get together with a view to amending the Representation of the People Act so as to reduce further the opportunity for election crookedness.

He was surprised that Mr McWeeney accused the FNM of diverting attention from "the central significance" of the bye-election. He said that instead of talking about "Goddie" and carrying out character assassination, the PLP should be dealing with the issues and responding to the serious charges which have been brought against the Prime Minister.

Mr Ingraham was surprised that the chairman said he "for once" agreed with him when he suggested that the number of party supporters outside polling stations should be restricted.

"I find there are few times that the chairman disagrees with me, notwithstanding his public utterances," he said. "He and I don't have any fundamental differences on any political matter. On that point, he really protests too much."

Court Challenge

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 5 Jul 86 p 1

[Text]

THE Free National Movement will take the St Barnabas bye-election decision to an election court, FNM Leader Kendal Isaacs confirmed last night.

"There were so many irregularities, there was so much cheating, so much confusion that any self-respecting, god-fearing political leader or party would not have wanted to see their candidate in the House of Assembly under those circumstances," Mr Isaacs told hundreds of cheering supporters last night.

Also speaking were Deputy Leader Cecil Wallace-Whitfield, the FNM's St Barnabas candidate Edmund Moxey, Blue Hills MP Arthur Foulkes, Inagua and Mayaguana MP Simon Symonette, Secretary General I Garth Wright, Dr Dexter Johnson and Derek Simms.

Monday's bye-election, said Mr Moxey was "one that this country should be ashamed

of." In his opinion the presence of Prime Minister Lynden Pindling in polling station 1 was an act of "gross intimidation and if our country has come to that then it puts us in serious straits."

Mr Moxey said that the decision of Chief Justice Telford Georges not to say which register of voters is the correct one "put us in total confusion."

Due to the corruption, intimidation and victimisation, said Mr Moxey, "we must now declare political war."

Mr Isaacs said the FNM will be taking the decision of the St Barnabas bye-election to an election court "in order that justice will be done as far as St Barnabas is concerned, as far as Mr Moxey is concerned, and really as far as the people of the Bahamas are concerned."

He said it is unfortunate that the PLP under Prime Minister Pindling has "really descended

to a despicable low, so low that the people of the Bahamas should be, and I am sure that a majority of the people in the Bahamas are, ashamed to have the PLP as the government.

"It is up to us to prepare ourselves and when the time comes it is up to us to wrest the government from the corrupt PLP and really set our beloved Bahamas on a straight course, the course that will lead to God, to full employment, to decency, and to a better quality of life for all Bahamians."

He pointed out that PLP Chairman Sean McWeeney in a press statement yesterday accused the FNM of intimidating the PLP.

"If that is so then I take it as a compliment because they have been intimidating their opponents for donkey's years. And if the FNM has now reached the status where they can intimidate the PLP, then I say go to it FNM's," Mr Isaacs said.

Demand for Government Probe

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 5 Jul 86 p 1

[Text]

CALLING it the "most corrupt" election, the Free National Movement today demanded that the Attorney General's office find out how 1982 ballots turned up in the St Barnabas bye-election. The party also wants other election irregularities investigated.

The FNM further asked the Attorney General to direct his attention to comments of Mr Cecil Rose, father of Dr Matthew Rose, the new St Barnabas MP, who was quoted in the press as "adamantly stating that a ballot missing from a book may not have existed at all."

On the recount of polling division no. 6 on the morning after the election it was discovered that one ballot was missing from those given to the presiding officer on the morning of the election.

The party will also go to the Election Court to get a decision on the deadline for transfer votes.

"Members of the press and the public are already aware of some of the shocking irregularities which marred the recent bye-election in St Barnabas," the FNM said in a press statement today. "The FNM would like to pinpoint

some of these irregularities and to point out why justice not only to the people of the St Barnabas constituency but of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, demands that these matters must be fully addressed.

"We have been stating for quite a long time that Prime Minister Pindling and his Government were in a very desperate position in the light of widespread corruption and strife in the PLP," said the FNM.

"The desperation of these men manifested itself clearly on Monday, June 30, in the bye-election when it became apparent that Prime Minister Pindling and the PLP were intent on pulling all the stops to ensure a victory for their party no matter what the price to the country and our democratic parliamentary system.

"In addition to the many irregularities, the PLP Government launched an intimidation and patronage campaign unprecedented in scope with hundreds of job offers and other favours used to seduce voters. Despite all that they still could not garner a thousand votes.

"Prime Minister Pindling himself led the game plan for his party when he turned up early Monday at polling divisions No 1 and 2 in Jumbey Village to act as a polling agent for his party," said the FNM.

"This can only be looked upon as an act of blatant intimidation of the voters and the civil servants whose duty it was to conduct a fair election."

The FNM said that civil servants, who were polling officers, were intimidated and brow beaten all day.

"All, of course, to give the country and the outside world the impression that the Bahamas still accepts him and his corrupt and incompetent Government."

The FNM said that it was "at the very same polling division where Sir Lynden acted as a polling agent that he rode rough shod over the presiding officer and demanded that there be no count of the ballots before the voting. It would be a very difficult thing for a public officer in a bye-election in these circumstances not to feel intimidated by the demands of the Prime Minister. Everybody knows how vindictive the PLP Government can be."

The FNM said that "Sir Lynden knew precisely what sort of effect his presence at the polling division would have." They claimed that he intended "to bring about that result to the detriment of democracy and fair and free elections."

There was evidence, said the Opposition, that 50 unused ballots from the 1982 general elections were found at the very same station where Sir Lynden did not permit a recount before the poll opened.

"We have heard of no similar case in other democratic countries where a Prime Minister would go into a polling station and sit down for five hours acting as a polling agent for his party.

"But as the Bahamas, and indeed the world, now knows, Sir Lynden has no intention of following democratic parliamentary conventions," said the FNM.

The Opposition concluded that he has made up his mind to hold on to power no matter what.

"The Free National Movement demands that an investigation be instituted by the Attorney General's Office to determine how these 1982 ballots turned up at the poll as well as a host of other irregularities," said the release.

"In a total summation of the St Barnabas poll, the Free National Movement unequivocally states that it was the most corrupt single election ever perpetrated upon a voting public.

"We will not rest until justice is done not only to the people who voted fairly in that election but also to the people of the Bahamas who need to have assurance that elections from here on will be conducted fairly in accordance with the rules and with no intimidation of voters or poll officials.

"One of the most important declarations we will be seeking from the Election Court will be on the issue of transfer voters. The PLP were transferring voters to the St Barnabas poll right up to and on election day.

"The Free National Movement will also ask the Court to rule on a cut-off date for the Election Register. We feel that it is grossly unfair to voters and the candidates that they are not supplied with a final register so as to know who the voters are in the constituency whose support they are seeking.

"The Free National Movement will be seeking a determination from the Election court as to whether the 1982 election register has expired or when it will expire, what is the status of the new register now being compiled and whether both these registers can be used at an election."

Call for Reforms

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 5 Jul 86 pp 1, 13

[Text]

BLUE Hills MP Arthur Foulkes warned that unless the Representation of the People Act is amended, before the next elections to clarify when the register of voters closes, "we are going to have trouble."

Addressing a Free National Movement meeting in the St Barnabas Constituency last night, Mr Foulkes took issue with allegations against the FNM made in a press statement by PLP Chairman Senator Sean McWeeney earlier in the day.

Mr Foulkes recalled that the elections (Representation of the People) Act which the Bahamas followed for the past 20 years, was in 1982 "totally brutalised by the PLP government."

"They changed the rules towards the end of the game without any warning," said Mr Foulkes. "The way the election Act used to be interpreted was changed completely."

He called for a modern up to date system such as the one where a voter's finger is dabbed with a special kind of ink when he comes to vote. The ink will show up under a special kind of light should the voter try to vote a second time that day.

"Amend the law to include that," challenged Mr Foulkes. "The law should be amended to clarify when the register closes because if it is not settled between now and the next general elections we are going to have trouble."

The law, he said, obviously intended that there should be a register of voters so that candidates running in a particular constituency and their agents would have in front of them a register that was the official register of that election.

"If you are registering people up to election day or transferring people up to election day, you don't have a register."

"The paper in the front of you is meaningless and the whole system is then open to

massive fraud and corruption. That is what needs to be amended."

Senator McWeeney, he said, "is now carrying the burden of defending the most corrupt government in the history of the Bahamas. I am genuinely sorry to see a young man (McWeeney) who in his early years showed so much promise, getting up before this nation and talking so much foolishness in defence of a man who is not worthy to be defended by anybody."

He described McWeeney's allegations that the FNM was defeated in a fair and square election as "the joke of the year."

"There was nothing fair about the bye-election last Monday," said Mr Foulkes. "It was crooked from beginning to end; from the refusal to have the civil servants count the ballots, it was crooked from beginning to end."

Mr Foulkes admitted that the FNM is disappointed at having lost the St Barnabas bye-election, and if they had won it would have been "a tremendous addition to our momentum."

"But (the PLP) can take no comfort in the fact that they won St Barnabas as a government with the total power of the government concentrated in that one constituency, with some ministers intimidating and with some of the lesser lights in the PLP buying votes and intimidating people, with people voting twice on the same name in the register, with people voting whose names we never saw on the register."

"We don't feel that badly therefore that we lost. We are not going to let Sean McWeeney and Pindling twist the facts to fool the people. You know how good they are at that," said Mr Foulkes.

Mr Foulkes branded as "a lie" Mr McWeeney's allegation

that ENM St Barnabas candidate Edmund Moxey went to court contending for a register that would have allowed only 500 people to vote.

"What Mr Moxey did, through our Deputy Leader representing him, was to try to get the court to say what is the right register. That's all. Now, if it turned out that only 600 people were on the right register you would have to blame the government for its incompetence and negligence because we have been saying to them for a long time, start the registration so the people can go and register."

Prime Minister Pindling's presence in polling division 1 and 2, said Mr Foulkes, was designed to intimidate the voters. But he found his presence there also intimidating of the civil servants who were conducting the registration. He claimed that civil servants were being ordered around. "The Prime Minister and his Ministers should be condemned for that alone," he said.

Concerning the missing ballot, Mr Foulkes also dealt with Mr McWeeney's view that the margin of victory was so large - 329 votes - that one

ballot would not have affected the result.

"Mr McWeeney is either being very naive or dishonest or ignorant, because if he has any knowledge of politics, he must know that the reason why it is important to count the ballots in the book and to make sure that only the correct number is there because one single ballot can launch a floating vote (chain ballot), and cheating can go on all day. That's one of the oldest tricks in the world," said Mr Foulkes.

Mr McWeeney in his press statement said he could not see the significance to the by-election of the 50 unused ballot papers with the names Frank Watson and Paul Adderley on them, that turned up in one of the ballot boxes of Monday's bye-election.

"If you can get one single ballot going in a chain," said Mr Foulkes, "imagine how many chains you can get operating with 50 ballots. With 50 floating ballots going on all day you can literally get hundreds of people to vote corruptly either through intimidation or because they were paid for their vote."

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CSO: 3298/519

BAHAMAS

PAPER REPORTS ON PLP ELECTION MOVES, FNM REACTION

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 12 Jul 86 p 1

[Text]

VOTER registration satellite stations will close August 1, Government announced in notices to the public Tuesday and Wednesday.

"That could only mean that they are wrapping up their registration and are getting ready for a general election," FNM chairman Chuck Virgill said.

FNM registration co-ordinator Rudy Penn urged all constituency associations to assist in getting their supporters registered.

The election view was shared by other political observers who feel that the PLP election machine has now moved into high gear and that general elections will be held around fall or - at the latest - early next year.

Prime Minister Lynden Pindling has declared that the old voter's register does not expire until next April. It appears he feels his party has an advantage on the old register.

There is strong speculation that Government intends to resurrect the "University of Wulff Road" at Windsor Park. Utility poles were recently erected in the area.

The PLP's turbulent drive towards re-election on June 10, 1982 began two months earlier at Windsor Park. Three days after the election, Prime

Minister Lynden Pindling returned to the "university" site and emotionally told his supporters he would "stick close to the grassroots."

The three-day "people's conference" was used by PLP politicians to launch a scathing attack on the FNM and Tribune contributing editor Sir Etienne Dupuch. The University rated national TV coverage and set the stage for the election.

With a victory behind it in the June 30 St Barnabas bye-election, it is generally felt that the PLP is now concentrating its efforts on the "main battle."

Wednesday night's glittering banquets to celebrate Sir Lynden's 30 years in Parliament is another sign that the campaign is now in high pitch.

Last month, Sir Lynden paid an official visit to Turks and Caicos, taking ZNS TV with him. The event was given wide TV coverage.

On June 21, Sir Lynden said in Freeport that "it (general election) won't be long now, I assure you."

Mr Virgill has urged voters to continue registering on the new list. He said the FNM will step up its registration drive next week.

The FNM intends to ask the Court of Appeal to determine which is the correct register and to get a ruling on the question of transfers.

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CSO: 3298/519

BARBADOS

TEXT OF BARROW'S 1 JULY ADDRESS TO CARICOM SUMMIT

Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 2 Jul 86 pp 5, 16

[Text of address by Barbados Prime Minister Errol Barrow to CARICOM summit meeting in Georgetown, Guyana, 1 July 1986]

[Text]

MR. SECRETARY GENERAL, Mr. President, Your Excellencies, my distinguished colleagues, fellow ministers, ladies and gentlemen.

The street is in darkness
Children are sleeping
Mankind is dreaming
It is midnight
Who will awaken one little flower
Sleeping and growing
Hour and hour
Light will awaken all the young flowers
Sleeping and growing
Hour and hour
Dew is awake
Morning is soon
Mankind is risen
Flowers will bloom.

The celebrated national poet of Guyana, Martin Carter, in this poem, *For my son*, reminds us in these moving stanzas, that we represent the expectations of five million people, and what is more, that what we achieve or betray concerns not only the living but those who are not yet born.

There are many critical problems on our agenda. There will be many different even conflicting (views). We have long experience in surviving such differences and we will survive them again. But there is a fundamental theme on which I should like to think there can be no difference and that is the absolute necessity to promote and defend the solidarity and sovereignty of this regional Caribbean family. And also the absolute obligation to discover those strategies and mechanisms which will ultimately lead to unity of action in all major areas of our economic, social and political life.

If we have sometimes failed to comprehend the essence of the regional integration movement, the truth is that thousands of ordinary Caribbean people do in fact live that reality everyday. In Barbados, our families are no longer exclusively Barbadian by island origin.

We have Barbadian children of Jamaican mothers, Barbadian children of Antiguan and St. Lucian fathers, and there is no need to mention Trinidad and Tobago who have always been tied to us not only by the inestimable bonds of consanguinity but by the burgeoning cross-fertilisation of cultural art forms.

We are a family of islands nestling closely under the shelter of the great Co-operative Republic of Guyana and this fact of regional togetherness is lived everyday by ordinary West Indian men and women in their comings and goings — the small traders, and some not so small, who move from Jamaica to Haiti on what I believe is their lawful occasions and legitimate businesses.

The same with Grenada and Trinidad, Barbados and St. Lucia and Dominica ... people chose to describe as ... economy. It is true the ... of each territory may sometimes get in their way. But for the majority of these decent and industrious sons and daughters of the Caribbean, I believe their business is spontaneous though unassisted, and legitimate, though unregulated.

I should like to believe that we all are committed to the principle of mobility and people interaction, to the principle, I emphasise, and that we have an obligation to think and to go on thinking out ways how such a principle might be applied without imposing on any territory a greater strain than its resources are able to support.

You will notice that I have strenuously avoided the perjorative terms such as 'freedom of movement'. The point I wish to emphasise is this: the regional integration movement is a fact of daily experience. It is a reality which is lived but which we have not yet been able to institutionalise. What is the source of our failure? I should like to share some of my own misgivings with you.

The first has to do with communications and the ways in which we communicate. For many of our people, the regional integration movement has come to mean matters which relate

exclusively to trade: who will buy my shirt, and on what conditions; whose markets will open up for my peppersauce and my guava jelly; who will buy my white sand and who will buy my gray sand.

These are realistic questions but we have made them the exclusive reason for our being together in a grave shortcoming. Whether we recognise it or not we have a cultural history, a common experience of feeling which is deeper and is much older than CARICOM and our negotiations concerning trade.

My attention was recently drawn to this by the Jamaican artist and scholar, Rex Nettleford, who articulates what I am trying to say about the essence of the regional movement which transcends mere discussions on trade.

Jamaica is the occasion, but it is the Caribbean he is addressing, and I quote: 'The public opinion polls can tell you what are the feelings of a day or moment. They cannot tell you what are the deeper social and psychological needs of our people, who have had to devise strategies and stratagems of survival against the ravages of severance and suffering and the continuing deprivation in economic, social and political terms.

'Such strategies are the result and clear sign of a collective intellect, a collective wisdom that resides among our ordinary folk. But that collective wisdom continues to be ignored on the account of the arrogance of planners trained in the North Atlantic or even at the University of the West Indies, especially when the University of the West Indies forgets that it is not an extension of Oxbridge.

'The collective wisdom and intellect of our people are yet to be tapped and given a central place in the development strategy of our nations. But we are so busy Westminsterising ourselves into becoming a clone of the Anglo-Saxon world and its American extension that we forget that we have a life and history of our own to be examined, dealt with and used as a source of energy for the development of this nation/region and the shaping of a civilised society'.

In every territory of Caribbean region, and it has been my own experience in Barbados, I do believe that we have been failing to find a way of using the collective wisdom of our people. We have not been able to communicate the essence and the cultural infrastructure of the regional integration movement. We have not been able to get peoples' minds to move beyond the constraints of trade.

As a result, the slightest discord between the prime ministers over some restriction affecting type or quantity of wearing apparel can plunge citizens of the two countries into verbal and electronic warfare. The promise of the regional integration movement, even in the area of trade cannot be realised unless we find new ways of communicating to the mass of our people the meaning and purpose of all our regional institutions.

And that's one reason — if no other could be found — why the University of the West Indies must at all costs retain its regional character, and why the university must move away from

the confines of the campus more and more into the heart of the communities which constitute our region.

This battle of communication in defence of the unity of the region must be won if our efforts during this week and hitherto are to survive beyond the confines of conferences. Every institution and organisation should feel the obligation to accept this challenge.

The national and regional media, the schools at all levels of instruction, the church, every gathering that goes by the name of 'Caribbean' should feel this obligation to accept the challenge of communication to propagate the message that the region is a larger concept than 'trade and that the future of trade arrangements may be favourably influenced by that conviction among the mass of ordinary people whose collective wisdom, I believe with Nettleford, is a fact and is very much alive.

The issue of food production which was adumbrated in the speech of the distinguished President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, I have to say this. The University of the West Indies has provided us over more than one generation with some very remarkable social scientists. I recall with a certain pride the excellent work which was done by the New World group during the 60s.

Every major sector of our economic life has come under their scrutiny. Sugar, bauxite, oil, tourism, what you will. Ver Brandt and Thomas and Carrington and Brewster and Beckford, and, of course, Lloyd Best, investigations which have always concerned the Institute for Social and Economic Research, whose former director, Alistair McIntyre, is with us here today.

And these all proved beyond any doubt that this region is not lacking intellectual human resources. But in spite of all this excellent work an important link was missing: all this analysis, all this valuable organisation of information never got very far beyond the small circle of specialists for whom and by whom it was written. There was no link between that great storehouse of knowledge and the toiling mass of workers who are the motor-force of any society.

The analysis, the recommendations, that these will serve very limited purpose if their content does not become an essential part of the consciousness of the working population.

This has been the curse of our society. That division between those who work exclusively with their brains (and) those who we think work only with their hands. The truth is, all men and women, irrespective of occupation, have to work with their brains. But this division of labour has made us most vulnerable (...) to be most resilient. And, I am speaking of food and food production particularly.

We are worse than vulnerable. It is as though we had chosen to betray the blessings which Almighty God and Nature had bestowed upon us.

Surrounded by the richest of seas, we have condemned ourselves to importing fish. Our lands can provide almost every known food crop, yet we persist in the luxury of imported vegetables and tinned goods. I should like to recall a voice (...) a great mentor who has not

been without ideas about this danger and who tried to reverse this suicidal tendency which pervaded all our history.

Dr. Eric Williams will have to be heard again and again whenever we say 'agriculture'. He had a conception of food production which was regional. And, I quote him, on the Caribbean Food Crisis: 'Food production must be approached on a basis of industry to be run on commercial lines by a corporation collectively owned by the governments of the area and making approved investments in the different territories.'

This, in practical terms, means a Caribbean Community market. I remind you that last year, (1973, he was speaking of), the Caribbean Community countries imported \$24 million worth of fertilisers, of which only \$2 million or ten percent came from Trinidad and Tobago.

'Production must aim to satisfy not only the food needs of the local population of the Caribbean, it must also take into account the needs of the extensive tourist trade in such countries as Barbados and Jamaica, as well as the export market, beginning with the Caribbean region, Suriname, the Netherlands Antilles, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and the commercial corporation I envisage for the production of food on a large scale must keep the needs of these Caribbean areas in mind'.

Now, Dr. Williams wanted to correct the preference for imported foods which has been a major cause of our psychological dependency before and after independence. And, he wanted to help make agriculture a respected occupation because we needed it, and to make food production a respected industry because we cannot survive without it, and because it also requires gifts of intellect and high technical competence.

He wanted to help put an end to the insults he heard school children exchanging about their past: 'I, myself, encountered', he said, 'a group of young people to whom I was speaking and who assured me that they wished to have no part of any agricultural programme related to the small farmer and local foodstuff because commodities like eddoes and dasheen were slave food. The colonel from the Confederate South has won the battle for the minds of our children'.

I am happy to say that I don't think this would happen in Dominica where I understand school children are making agricultural work a normal part of their curriculum. And it is here we need to begin, in the schools, if we are going to correct this hostility directed towards the production of food which is the very fuel of our existence.

And if we are going to help another generation to understand what we mean by self-sufficiency, (it) may be one of our greatest forces of resistance to any form of external penetration.

But no amount of analysis, however brilliant, can save us from this danger, without an informed and highly technical workforce in agriculture and the industries it generates.

I should now like to deal with militarisation. My position also remains clear that the Caribbean must be recognised and respected as a zone of peace. In this connection, I should like to make further reference to Eric Williams, by saying that his speech *From Slavery To Chaguaramas*, made in 1960 over the issue of the United States base, should be required reading in every school in the Caribbean and in every language of the Caribbean.

Europe, and by extension, the United States, have always thought it a perfectly natural duty to invade and occupy these territories. Columbus did not discover the New World, he invaded it. George Beckford asked the question: How can you discover somewhere where people are already living?

We started our histories as naval and military bases from Columbus to Castro. That is our association with the modern world, each territory was there for capturing and recapturing. Eric Williams had this factor uppermost in his mind in his arguments over Chaguaramas. And he always argued from history.

I quote him again to emphasise why this document is so important today: 'And as Europe went out, United States of America came in. After getting their independence, which had been based on large-scale trading connections with the Caribbean, most of them illegal, most of them involving smuggling, the new United States began, from the very start, to look upon the West Indies and the Caribbean Sea as their sphere of influence.'

They began shortly after independence by publishing the Monroe Doctrine, stating that they would not want to see any extension, not any, but any extension, of European colonialism in the Caribbean. The ambition clearly stated in those days was to dominate the entire hemisphere. But if the whole West Indian movement is towards control of its own affairs, I, too, should like to know the clause in Adam's Will which denies the West Indian people a share of this world, especially a share of the world that rightly belongs to them.

We have seen it used as a base for a number of military exercises whose purpose is clear. There have been joint manoeuvres of very great magnitude, Ocean Venture '81 and Ocean Venture '82. Indeed, a very high-ranking officer, in fact the highest ranking officer of the United States Navy in Puerto Rico, based at Roosevelt Road, explained their purpose when he said: "The orchestra practises before playing in public."

I have said, and I repeat, that while I am Prime Minister of Barbados, our territory will not

be used to intimidate any of our neighbours; be that neighbour Cuba or the United States of America. And, I do not believe that size is necessarily the only criterion for determining these matters. But it is important to let people know where you stand, if they will support you in what is a moral commitment to peace in our region.

Recently, I have been reading William Demas' very stimulating address to the Institute of International Affairs at the University of the West Indies at St. Augustine — you see I've become Americanised already — and I recommend it for serious study.

But my attention particularly caught a quotation from the British economist, John Maynard Keynes, on the importance and power of ideas. And I quote: 'Indeed the world is ruled by little else. Practical men who believe themselves to be quite exempt from any intellectual influences, are usually the slaves of some defunct economist. . . . Sooner or later, it is ideas, not vested interests, which are dangerous for good or evil.'

That is why I believe in encouraging young people to acquaint themselves with the great variety of prevailing ideas. For it only through knowledge and critical acquaintance that they will be able to discriminate which ideas are relevant or subversive to their interests. And, the university must never be restricted, impeded or harassed for fulfilling its intellectual function of introducing its students critically and honestly to the great body of ideas which

constitute the storehouse of human knowledge.

The Government of Barbados, of whose Cabinet I have the honour to be chairman, will never circumscribe the university by demanding (that) the members of its staff should subscribe to some form of conventional wisdom or be restricted even in their criticism of the Government, itself.

In our own Caribbean Sea, the great Caribbean poet of the 19th Century, Jose Marti, spoke of the relation of truth to duty. He said a true man does not seek to pass where advantage lies, but rather the path where duty lies. And that it is only the practical man whose dream of today will be the law of tomorrow, because he knows that without a single exception the future lies on the side of duty.

Mr. President, I wish to ask in my personal welcome to you on your assumption of the mantle of leadership of your country, following the untimely passing of our colleague, Forbes Burnham, then that you share the vision which inspired the founding fathers of our integration movement, and which has served to sustain the community in its moments of gravest difficulty. I wish you, sir, every success in your tenure both as chairman of this conference and as president of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana.

I take this opportunity to commend your outgoing Secretary General for the sterling contribution he has made to CARICOM throughout his mandate. I wish him well in his future endeavours.

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CSO: 3298/506

BARBADOS

DEFEATED BLP MP SCOFFS AT RUMORS OF DRUG DEALING

Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 11 Jun 86 p 14

[Text]

FORMER LEADER of Government Business in the House of Assembly, Lionel Craig, says he has never seen a marijuana cigarette nor any form of cocaine.

The defeated Barbados Labour Party(BLP) stalwart has scoffed at rumours also that he was involved in illegal drug dealings during his term in office and was apprehended at the Grantley Adams International Airport.

And, he says, these allegations, along with abuse of his wife on a political platform during the recent election campaign, are the only political scars with which he is leaving the arena for the next five years.

Speaking at his business office, Washington House, Bay Street, St. Michael yesterday, Craig said he was coming out of the arena after 20 years with those scars, but had never attacked anyone.

Concerning the BLP defeat at the May 28 polls, he said,

"The BLP has been knocked down but not out."

About his switch from what was considered as a "safe seat" in St. James North to St. Michael South he said he was confident of winning until ten days before polling day.

He recalled telling his wife and campaign manager, ten days before elections, the Government had lost and he was unsure he would be able to win.

"I told my campaign manager I would have to struggle," he said.

He added at that time he realised he and the party had been caught up in a national swing, but promised within the next five years he would devote his time to his business, and rebuilding the image of the party, while keeping himself as fit as he could.

He added he had no ill feelings against any Barbadian because he knew what was meant by victory and defeat.

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CSO: 3298/506

BARBADOS

CHURCH TO HOLD DLP TO ELECTION-CAMPAIGN PROMISES

Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 25 Jun 86 p 1

[Text]

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH in Barbados will be the watchdog of the new Government, says Bishop Drexel Gomez.

In his monthly radio address to the nation last night, Bishop Gomez said the ultimate task of the watchman was to remind the nation it belonged to God.

He said that in the church's previous attempts to exercise its function it unfortunately created an impression it was disturbed in a crisis, when everyone else was disturbed, and it regarded its ease when "order" was restored and everyone else was at ease.

"If this is the case, then the church is simply saying what the world is saying, except that it often pushes it to extremes.

However, if the church is to be the church, it must speak so that what is said, is heard from God and not from man, Gomez said.

In that regard it must speak in season and out of season in the name of truth, he added.

"We cannot serve God and mammon, and anyone who thinks that his or her primary objective is class solidarity or political allegiance disrupts fellowship in Christ. He or she has chosen another master."

Gomez said, "As Christians, we must remind the new administration they have entered into a covenant relationship with the people, and it is the people who constitute the real sovereign in our nation.

"In this relationship, the people must take seriously the words of promise pronounced by the party, and the people have every right to demand that the party acts as it speaks."

The bishop said the DLP's declaration of interest had been made in its manifesto, and the people expected the party to keep its word.

He warned too that for there to be genuine interest in true democracy, the relationship of politics, the validity of opponents, the limitation of political means, the worth of minorities, the legitimate difference of opinions, the general distribution of competence and truth and the reduction of power, had to be recognised from time to time.

As Christians, Barbadians should be honest and realistic about their political orientation, he said.

The first step in democracy, he added, was a recognition that opponents might have something in their favour, and that whatever was good in their programme should be adopted.

"In the modern world all life seemed to be oriented towards politics, and if it is incorrect to say everything is political, it is true that rightly or wrongly, politics has gradually invaded everything.

"Consequently the other political question imposes itself on everything and voluntarily or involuntarily, all our judgements have political implications.

"We are, even without consent, involved in the political life of our country. This does not mean that we must be involved in party politics, but it does mean we cannot escape political responsibilities," Bishop Gomez said.

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CSO: 3298/596

BARBADOS

CENTRAL BANK REPORTS ECONOMIC GROWTH OVER 2-PERCENT GOAL

FL101525 Bridgetown CANA in English 1347 GMT 10 Jul 86

[By Hallam Hope]

[Text] Bridgetown, 9 Jul (CANA)--The Barbados economy was on target for a 2-1/2 percent increase in real output this year after an encouraging economic performance during the first three months of the year, the Central Bank said today.

Sugar output was higher than last year's and there was a stronger winter tourist season. Tourist arrivals were 4.5 percent higher than in the first quarter of 1986 over 1985 as the U.S. market continued to perform well with 15 percent growth in visitor arrivals, Central Bank Governor Dr Courtney Blackman said.

The United Kingdom market also recorded a 38.4 percent growth following the strong appreciation of the pound sterling and the March cricket test match in Bridgetown which attracted an estimated 3,000 English spectators.

The bank said the Canadian and Caribbean Community (Caricom) markets remained weak, but there was a 30.9 percent increase in cruise ship passengers, reflecting increased promotion in this area and improvements in on-shore passenger facilities.

Economic planners reported earlier in the year that the economy was unlikely to grow by more than two percent in 1986.

The 1986 sugar crop got off to an early start and output reached 111,150 tonnes, 11.2 percent higher than in 1985. Yields per hectare have improved following the relatively low incidence of illegal cane fires over the past three years and the favourable rainfall during the growing season.

This higher level of production and the cut in the U.S. quota from 17,000 tonnes to 11,000 tonnes will force Barbados to sell sugar on the world market for the first time since 1980, Dr Blackman noted.

He said the stronger pound and the slight recovery in world market prices over the past year, together with higher export volumes, will increase sugar receipts by some eight million dollars (one Bds dollar--50 cents U.S.) to an estimated 70 million dollars in 1986.

Non-sugar agriculture continued to perform well as output recovered in the first quarter. Fish catches were an estimated 8.6 percent higher than for the corresponding period of 1985, when the weather was very bad.

Poultry production rose 15.3 percent and milk production was 11.3 percent higher than in the first quarter of last year, continuing the steady growth in the dairy industry over the last three or four years. Vegetable production also increased, and with more abundant supplies, prices remained stable.

In the manufacturing sector too there was also some recovery led mainly by a spurt in exports of electronic components.

There were also some gains in output of wearing apparel and furniture but the other manufacturing activities remained depressed as access to the Trinidad and Tobago market was still severely restricted. Crude oil production, which was increasing quite steadily during the last five years, declined in the first quarter of 1986.

The rate of price increases slowed further during the first quarter of 1986 partly as a result of the significant drop in oil and import prices. The 12-month average of the consumer price index to March was 3.4 percent higher than for the same period a year earlier and the point-to-point increase from March 1985 to March 1986 was only 0.2 percent.

The rate of unemployment declined to 15.6 percent compared with 17.4 percent for the first quarter of 1986 as a result of an aggressive government public works programme.

In the financial sector there was a modest increase in deposits, but as credit demand remained weak, the commercial banking system grew more liquid.

Demand deposits rose by 38.3 million dollars but the growth in time and savings deposits together was only 2.9 million dollars; as deposit rates declined there was a shift from time to savings deposits.

Competition for treasury bills pushed the rate down from 4.58 percent at the end of December to 4.5 percent at the end of March, the lowest rate since 1976.

Credit rose by 65 million dollars (5.7 percent) in contrast to the first quarter fall in 1985. Credit to the private sector rose by the same amount as in 1985, but government increased its borrowings by 37.8 million dollars.

The rise in output in the first quarter kept growth in the overall public sector deficit down to 46 million dollars, three percent more than it was in the first quarter of 1985.

Current revenue was boosted by significant corporate tax receipts and by surpluses of the health levy fund. However, the increased wages bill, together with rising subsidies and transfers, swelled current expenditure.

Although capital expenditure was kept at about the same level as for the last fiscal year, spending during the first quarter of 1986 grew much faster than

for the corresponding period in 1985. The current account surplus of 17.3 million dollars for 1985/86 was 5.1 million dollars higher than for the last fiscal year.

Net foreign exchange reserves fell by two million dollars during the first quarter, reversing the customary surplus for the first time since 1975.

The current account surplus on the balance of payments was much lower than a year ago; sluggish merchandise exports and moderate increases in tourist receipts were just sufficient to offset the moderate increase in imports.

On the capital account, however, there was a heavy outflow for debt repayments, including the first repayments on the IMF standby drawings made between October 1982 and June 1984.

As a result of the unusually heavy debt repayment schedule in 1986 and 1987 and the slower inflows of project funds, government will need to borrow in the region of 50 million to 60 million dollars (U.S.) this year.

The bank said the prime minister (Errol Barrow) had announced that his government would be going to the Japanese financial market for a private placement of five billion yen (U.S. 31.2 million dollars approximately) later this month. Negotiations for this private placement were completed by the Central Bank with Nikko Securities, Tokyo, in February this year.

These funds will be used to help finance government's borrowing strategy designed to meet more and more of the country's financing needs from the private international capital markets, since Barbados faces the prospect of being graduated from borrowing status in the World Bank possibly by 1991, the bank said.

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CSO: 3298/506

BARBADOS

BRIEFS

WORLD FINANCIAL BOARD APPOINTMENTS--The Barbados Government has announced the names of officials to serve as its governors and alternate governors on a number of international financial institutions. Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Affairs, Errol Barrow, will be on the board of governors of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the Caribbean Development Bank. The alternate governors will be the Director of Finance and Planning, Stephen Emtage, and the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, ERskine Griffith. The Minister of Finance, Dr Richie Haynes, will serve on the board of governors of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The alternate governors will be the Director of Finance and Planning, Stephen Emtage, for the World Bank; and the governor of the Central Bank, Dr. Courtney Blackman, for the IMF. [Text] [Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 24 Jun 86 p 3] /9274

FARMING COMPANY LOSSES--Barbados Farms Limited recorded a net loss of \$812 000 in its first year of operations. This has been revealed in the company's financial statement for the period ending June 30, 1985. However, company chairman, B. L. Banfield, has said the management has responded well to the need to control expenses and the 1985/86 profit or loss picture would, to a large extent, depend on Government's continued Price Support Programme. The company was established in June, 1984, to take over agricultural lands of the Barbados Shipping & Trading Company Limited Farms--Boarded Hall and Stepney, Bulkley and Jordans, Buttals and Windsor, Castle and Lamberts, Bennetts, and Norwood, Walkes Spring, Applewhaites and Orange Hill. The main activity continues to be the production of sugar cane, with cane revenue accounting for 80 percent of the turnover of \$7,070,109. In the report Banfield said: "The cost of the industry sugar production continues to be higher than the price it receives from its guaranteed extra-regional markets and Government is to be congratulated on its decision to continue, with modifications, its support programme, which was first instituted in 1982, and which this year (1985) took the form of an outright grant of \$10 million to the industry as well as support loans to the tune of \$10 million." [Text] [Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 10 Jun 86 p 1] /9274

FUEL PRICE CUT--In Barbados, the government has ordered a cut in fuel prices, an act which fulfills campaign promises of the ruling party. The Democratic Labor Party had said it would move to dissolve what it calls a tax burden on the people and the fuel prices were unnecessarily high. When the new

parliament met for the second time since the election, a large unexpected crowd arrived to greet the parliament members. They were not disappointed. By midnight last night, the price of gasoline went down by 57 cents a gallon on Barbados. Diesel prices were also cut. [Text] [Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 9 Jul 86 FL] /9274

CSO: 3298/506

COLOMBIA

URRA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT COSTS, SOVIET PARTICIPATION

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 30 Jun 86 p 10-A

[Article by Victor More Vega: "Urta Hydroelectric: 20 Billion Pesos for Uncertain Project"]

[Text] Barranquilla—In September, the Soviet mission that agreed to supply the electromechanical equipment for the powerplants in the Urta Hydroelectric Project will return to our country. This time they will define the amount of compensation CORELCA [Electric Corporation of the Atlantic Coast] will have to pay for the delay in this project.

However, the Soviets are not the only ones who have contracted projects in Urta that have not yet been started. On 17 April 1985, the main construction projects for Urta Powerplant I were awarded to the Colombian-Swedish consortium Skanska-Conciviles for a total of \$89 million. This contract was signed later in Monteria.

A protocol was signed with the Soviets agreeing on the characteristics and amount of auxiliary equipment for the turbines, generators, and transformers. The technical designs are about to be approved and the mentioned equipment will be manufactured when CORELCA so requests.

In development of the contract signed with the Soviet firm Energomachexport to supply the electromechanical equipment for the powerplants, several protocols were signed and satisfactory tests were done on turbine models for Urta I and Urta II.

Urta Investments

The fate of Urta I and II is still not known due to the fact that they do not have financing. However, they do have million-peso projects, some of them already completed, others approved for execution, and others being developed. CORELCA, however, announced that it would stop some of them until the fate of Urta is decided.

Some 112 kilometers of highway were built at a cost of 1,121,800,000 pesos awarded to Conciviles, Confianza, and Conobras.

The firm Brown Boveri Colombiana was awarded the contract to supply and assemble the Urra I and II substations for 60 million pesos.

The transmission line to supply energy to the projects was awarded to the Japanese firm Marubeni for 184 million yen, \$630,000, and 121 million pesos, according to the contract. However, 2 years after this contract was awarded, CORELCA voided it through another resolution.

Bidding opened in June 1984 to construct camps for the personnel responsible for the direction and supervision of the projects and the workmen for the powerplants. In May 1985, this was awarded to the consortium Conidec-Dominguez-Saieh for 833 million pesos.

Hydraulic Model

On 27 March 1984, a contract for 54 million pesos was signed with the University of Valle for the execution of hydraulic models for the deflection and discharge tunnels, overflows, intakes, and discharge conduit of the engine house of the Urra I and II Powerplants. These projects are being carried out in Monteria and Cali.

The main construction projects--river deflection tunnels, overflows, dam and dike for the reservoir, water intakes, plated tunnels, pipes, and the engine house--were awarded to the Colombian-Swedish consortium Skanska-Conciviles for \$89 million.

These are the projects that the executive council of CORELCA has awarded for the Urra Hydroelectric Powerplant. In some cases, they are already under way. However, the next government will have the final word on this project because it will decide if the resources will be obtained to continue these projects. CORELCA confirmed that Urra would be delayed at least 3 years but also indicated that there is no concern about its realization because it has been approved by the government. What is needed is a line of credit.

Control structures were designed in the Cienagas de Betanci and Grande de Lorica to control their water levels. A contingency plan to supply potable water to all the towns that are supplied by the Sinu River was designed. Also programs to prevent and control disease carriers and studies of fish habitats and migration were established.

All this is already under way. More than 20 billion pesos have already been invested and projects worth 40 billion pesos have been contracted and should be executed soon, but the fate of the Urra project is still uncertain. Whether the project is carried out or not is up to the next government. Meanwhile, the projects continue or those contracted will also want compensation.

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CSO: 3348/699

COLOMBIA

PRC, INDIA TO INVEST \$1 BILLION IN FREE ZONES

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Jul 86 p 12-A

[Text] Yesterday Hector Trujillo Velez, manager of the Cartagena Zone, revealed that businessmen from the PRC and India have announced investments of \$1 billion in the Colombian free zones.

If those investments crystallize, they would represent one of the largest investments made in the country by foreign businessmen. This demonstrates the high degree of confidence and interest in Colombia throughout the world.

Trujillo Velez made this announcement yesterday in Bogota during the International Forum on Investors in Free Zones held because of the new law that governs them.

He indicated that this investment would be made in export projects over a 5-year period as long as Colombia guarantees nationality to the investors as well as to the technicians and businessmen of the industries installed in the free zones.

Other nations like Canada, Argentina, and Belize have also made investment proposals for those zones but these figures were not revealed.

Korea and Taiwan expressed interest in obtaining Colombian partners to give them guarantees because they do not know the procedures and operations in our country.

Thirty Korean enterprises were named that will send delegations to Colombia in the next 6 months. They will define aspects of their investments in the free zones.

In Japan, 37 capital enterprises have been identified that have concrete interest in establishing themselves in the free zones. The requirement that Colombia must satisfy in the next 6 months is to begin an aggressive personnel training policy.

With its new system for free zones, Colombia is the new center of attention of foreign investors due to the fact that in other regions, like the east, there are no longer advantages for industrial projects.

In the concrete case of Cartagena, the free zone of that city is signing agreements with two international firms to draw up a prefeasibility study for the Japanese and Korean enterprises.

Colombia Better

When opening the forum, the minister of economic development, Gustavo Castro Guerrero, made a presentation on the scope of the new law for free zones and its regulatory decree.

According to his statements, that legislation made Colombia one of the best free zones in the world, much better than the majority in aspects like tax exemptions.

Betancur's Message

According to the message President Belisario Betancur sent to the participants of the forum, the free zones or special economic zones "are an alternative for placing basic agricultural and mining products on the foreign market. In their primary state, they have chronic problems of access to international markets."

The president revealed his confidence in the new focus that the businessmen will give to the free zones as an effective way to stimulate growth and employment.

The following are excerpts from his message:

"A radical change in the free zones to reorient them toward the foreign markets so that they respond to current needs for employment and foreign currency is one of the priorities of the Colombian Government.

"We decided to establish complete exemption from income and complementary taxes, currency exchange freedom, and facilities for useful foreign investment in defined zones without forming industrial enclaves that will hurt production in the rest of national territory.

"With the new plan for free zones and with our traditional democratic stability and respect for foreign capital, Colombia is a propitious area for useful foreign investment--that is, investment which contributes new financial resources and management ability, transfers new technologies, and generates jobs and foreign currency. We Colombians prefer to have partners instead of creditors. The partner acts surefootedly because he has a commitment and clear rules of the game. He is not fickle like the creditor. Also our experience has taught us that businesses with foreign capital have a better chance of penetrating the market of their partner's country than national enterprises do."

Claim

As the International Forum on Free Zones began in Bogota, a claim was presented to the Council of State concerning the alleged unconstitutionality of the new law on free zones and its respective decrees.

COLOMBIA

NICARAGUAN PUBLISHER ON LA PRENSA CLOSURE

PA240415 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 17 Jul 86 p 4

[Article by Pedro J. Chamorro: "The Closure of LA PRENSA"]

[Text] The FSLN was so vexed by the U.S. Congress' decision that--in a nearly irrational act--it made up its mind to suffer, once and for all, the political cost of closing LA PRENSA.

Let us consider for a moment, however, the true significance of closing a newspaper that has been incredibly censored for more than 4 years.

If the newspaper had been free, Ortega's argument that the newspaper favors the "contras" or that it is a "Reagan mouthpiece" and "reactionary" could have some validity. But this argument is ridiculous because everything that LA PRENSA publishes is meticulously censored by a "team specializing in subliminal techniques."

Anyway, if they do not like what LA PRENSA publishes, the censors who permit it are the ones responsible for it. According to this, Ortega should have closed the Communications (read lack of communication) Media Directorate and not LA PRENSA.

To close LA PRENSA for what it does not publish is equivalent to killing an invalid for what he thinks. A censored newspaper is like an invalid. It cannot move.

Now we have reached the core of the matter. In their boundless repressive zeal, the Sandinists have really gone too far. They not only punish the action, because they prevent it through their unscrupulous censors before it occurs, but they also punish the intention. They punish the thought that they read in every censored editorial and, even worse, in LA PRENSA's omissions when the newspaper refuses to publish their daily propaganda.

By punishing LA PRENSA like this, however, the Sandinists are inflicting the worst possible damage on themselves because it is much more difficult to justify the closure of a censored newspaper than that of 100 free ones.

The Sandinists want to teach their opponents a lesson and God knows how many repressive measures of a greater scope are in store for the near future. Nevertheless, nothing goes unnoticed in this world. Justice may sometimes tarry, but it never misses its target.

Let us now see whether the infamous Contradora Group hastens to condemn the closure of LA PRENSA for an indefinite time. Let us see if the group does so as strongly as it condemned the U.S. Congress' approval of the \$100 million aid for the Nicaraguan resistance.

Probably, the closure of LA PRENSA will share a common fate with the innumerable calls for dialogue made by the country's political and military forces--a fate similar to that of the innumerable reports of repression against the Catholic Church and the people in general.

Contradora will continue to mark time under the island's palm trees, very certain about its intentions. Such intentions are necessary, but not at all sufficient to lead Nicaragua and Central America to peace and democracy.

We journalists should not limit ourselves to demanding that LA PRENSA be reopened. This is necessary, but not enough. We must struggle with our five senses so that when LA PRENSA circulates again, it can do so under a regime that advocates freedom of expression.

For this, the good intentions of Contradora and Latin American and European democrats are not enough, either. These democrats look the other way when the repressive FSLN daily treats the Nicaraguan people mercilessly, because it is more comfortable for them not to assume any responsibilities...as long as someone else is repressed.

Many things are necessary to achieve this climate of liberty. Fortunately, these things are not foreign to the Nicaraguan people.

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CSO: 3348/706

COLOMBIA

CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS DIVIDED OVER OPPOSITION TO BARCO

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 30 May 86 p 8-A

Article by Leonel Fierro T.

[Text] The announcement of opposition in advance to the Liberal government of president-elect Virgilio Barco Vargas, made by ex-president Misael Pastrana Borrero and welcomed by the National Conservative Directorate, revealed yesterday a latent division in that party.

Leaders such as Senator Bertha Hernandez de Ospina; the chief of the National Conservative Movement, Gustavo Rodriguez Vargas; and former minister Antonio Alvarez Restrepo, rejected that decision as precipitate and dangerous, and asked for a margin of confidence for the new administration.

Meanwhile Barco Vargas announced from Mexico that he not only plans to give adequate and equitable participation to the Conservatives as provided for by constitutional mandate but also to the Galanistas and to all groups that are in agreement with his Liberal program.

"I shall offer to the party with the second-largest number of votes the participation alluded to in Paragraph 120 of the National Constitution," Barco Vargas said to the Colombian Radio Group.

The Conservatives remained involved also in an evaluation of the responsibility for last Sunday's defeat, and from Monteria the former governor and president of the provincial directorate favoring Alvaro Gomez, Nestor Padron Gomez, said that "the manifest animosity of President Belisario Betancur against the candidate Alvaro Gomez and his mistaken politican actions from the beginning of his mandate were the main causes of the disastrous Conservative defeat in the 25 May elections."

Although there was criticism in other sectors of the party for Betancur's attitude in visiting Barco Vargas at the Hilton Hotel Sunday evening, when he went to congratulate him and present him with a first report on the situation of the country, the Conservative National Directorate approved at its Tuesday meeting "a respectful greeting to the president of the Republic," expressed its recognition for the democratic guarantees offered in the electoral process and recognized that "this patriotic attitude is a patrimony of the community."

The brief statement of gratitude to Betancur was signed by the two presidents of that political body, Senator Guillermo Velez Urreta of Antioquia and Representative Donald Rodrigo Tafur. Although all the members of the National Conservative Directorate signified their agreement with the position of ex-president Pastrana Borrero and the president of the Senate, Alvaro Villegas Moreno reiterated yesterday that the decision not to collaborate with the Barco Vargas administration "is beneficial for both parties," it was noted that this decision would in any case have to be considered by a committee of legislators.

A Bureaucratic Problem

Senator Gustavo Rodriguez Vargas, head of the National Conservative Movement, recalled that the president now in office, Belisario Betancur, established the doctrine of political independence as regards the Liberal Party when he appointed his ministers without consulting anybody.

Rodriguez Vargas asked himself how the Conservative National Directorate is going to go about disqualifying Conservative ministers and governors that may be appointed by President Barco, and he announced that as far as he is concerned he will only begin to study the possibility of acting in opposition when he sees the resignation of the last follower of Pastrano in the new government.

"Meanwhile it seems to me a very serious matter to believe that the problem of the Conservative party is purely of a bureaucratic nature," said Rodriguez Vargas. He added that he does not share that position "because one cannot complain of what does not hurt one."

He said that his only point of agreement with Pastrana "is in the need for further thought because throwing more salt on the wound is not the most appropriate therapy for the party in the present circumstances."

Statement by Anapo

Anapo, a movement that participated in the discussion of the Constitutional reform of 1968, when Paragraph 120 was introduced into the Charter, announced yesterday that discussion of such a delicate matter should be the fruit of a consensus of the entire nation.

In a four-point statement, the movement expressed its gratification at the results of the 25 May elections in which "an unquestionable mandate was given to Dr Barco," and stated that the results clear the political panorama and open up enormous expectation by the Colombian people. As is well known, Anapo gave its support to Barco Vargas before the elections.

Liberal Opinions

Liberal leaders in various areas of the country also made statements in connection with Pastrana's announcement and the Conservative directives with regard to the Barco Vargas administration.

Senator Felix Salcedo Baldion said that "it is very dangerous to hand over watchdog faculties to the Conservatives unless there are agreements beforehand on how this is going to be exercised." Senator Pedro Martin Leyes said he thinks the Conservatives "are precluded from the impartial exercise of any kind of fiscal, disciplinary or moral supervision."

Edmundo Lopez Gomez, deputy leader of the Liberals, said that Pastrana's attitude is precipitate but normal within democratic development that allows for the ideas of government and opposition.

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CSO: 3348/639

COLOMBIA

PASTRANA STATES CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATING IN GOVERNMENT

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Jun 86 p 8-C

[Text] Ex-president Misael Pastrana Borrero said yesterday that if president-elect Virgilio Barco decides to form a national government the Conservatives will modify their initial decision to go into opposition and would begin cooperating in the next administration.

In an interview granted to Caracol radio network the Conservative ex-president said that "in politics one never throws the key into the sea," signifying that every decision is susceptible to change.

Pastrana said that "to be part of a party government (such as that proposed by president-elect Virgilio Barco at public meetings) would not mean participating; the Conservative party would not be a partner but a witness, a notary of its own testament, if it is invited to join in the Liberal program." Before leaving on a trip abroad, the Conservative ex-president explained that the opposition he has proposed would not be undertaken to reject systematically all the government's decisions but would be offered after due reflection. He announced that he would defend the job security of government employees. "That," he said, "is not a political but human act, and I will request, within the rights conferred by Paragraph 120, the job security of government officials. I will become the representative of the public employee, provided he does his job." He added that to establish as a basic condition that the defeated party should accept in its entirety the program of the winners "would cause more internal conflicts than a differentiating position in opposition, and we would be deceiving public opinion."

Pastrana said that if it did cooperate, the Conservative party would do so with the right to voice its opinions and vote within the government, because that is the true spirit of the National Front. "If one has to pledge total loyalty to the program," he said, "that is impossible, because the controversy would have had no justification.

Pastrana noted that no president has held consultations on appointments to his cabinet and that the other party can participate with or without consultation. But he added that, based on the political parties statute one knows who is their legal representative, and not heeding party directives "would be something outside the party."

Pastrana said that as a peculiar thing the country did not want party governments and voted for that. "Only 17 percent," he maintained, "wanted party governments. The Liberal program is contrary to a general feeling in public opinion."

He added, "I want national governments, based on the spirit of the National Constitution. The Conservative party could not come up against the wall of its own conscience, of its own convictions. Let a national spirit be established and for this reason I speak only of the higher levels. Of agreements on programs, let it be an opposition that is calm, reflective, not as a contradiction to power but rather as an alternative. But, obviously, we cannot be a part of a party government in directing the upper levels of the administration. If there is a government with national spirit I imagine that the party will think over its political decisions."

Pastrana added that ex-president Alberto Lleras, who said he was the decisive factor in his own candidacy, never pressured him while he was president, and that neither has he himself pressured any president. "If one really analyzes the membership of the (Betancur) cabinet it will be seen that I am the one who does not have adequate and equitable representation," Pastrana said.

He added that he defends the rights of the Conservative party because it is his obligation to do so. He explained, "I think the Conservative party has a constitutional right, but obviously within the framework of criteria and principles of political dignity and ideological respect. In no democracy in the world, if the other party is invited to be part of a partisan government would that party accept."

Pastrana noted that he does not believe that President Barco will name Conservative ministers without political support.

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COLOMBIA

REPORT NOTES LABOR MINISTRY MEDIATION AVOIDING COSTLY STRIKES

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 25 May 86 pp 1-A, 6-A

[Article by German Navarrete]

[Text] The Ministry of Labor saved the country losses of more than 10 billion pesos in 7 months by preventing management-worker conflicts from developing into work stoppages and strikes during negotiation of labor contracts.

This is the result in the labor field that president Belisario Betancur will include in his report to the president-elect of Colombia Sunday afternoon on the social and economic situation that the new administration will inherit on 7 August.

The document shows a notable decrease in stoppages and strikes in the country since last September as a result of agreements brought about by experts from the Ministry of Labor. The head of the Office of Planning and Labor Economy at the Ministry, Pedro Eugenio Lopez Salazar, said that between September 1985 and March this year only six work stoppages and two strikes took place in conformity with what the law allows.

Statistics prepared for the new government by Gabriel Parrado Mora, Aurora Rojas, Alba Rodriguez, Jaime Castro, Alcides Calderon, Beatriz Galan and Jorge Monje enumerate the work stoppages and strikes in comparable periods between 1983 and 1986 as follows:

<u>Period</u>	<u>Work Stoppages</u>	<u>Workers Involved</u>	<u>Hours Lost</u>	<u>Cost of Hours Lost in Pesos</u>
Sep-Dec 1983	23	29,269	136	45,569,673
Jan-Mar 1984	22	4,450	428	13,640,870
Total	45	33,719	564	59,210,543
Sep-Dec 1984	23	1,684	694	5,617,495
Jan-Mar 1985	43	3,577	1,311	8,768,401
Total	66	5,261	2,005	14,385,896
Sep-Dec 1985	-	-	-	-
Jan-Mar 1986	6	759	450.5	2,329,344

Lopez Salazar said that comparison of the three periods shown establishes that from the first period to the second there was an increase of 146.7 percent, while the third period dropped to 13.3 percent through the ministry's mediation. From 100 percent in 1983, the number of workers involved in work stoppages dropped to 2.2 percent in 1986. Also, hours of work lost in stoppages increased 177.9 percent in 1985 and decreased 79.8 percent in 1986. The cost of hours lost dropped from 100 percent in 1983 to 3.9 percent in 1986.

<u>Period</u>	<u>Strikes</u>	<u>Workers Involved</u>	<u>Hours Lost</u>	<u>Cost of Hours Lost in Pesos</u>
Sep-Dec 1983	9	3,342	1,832	26,767,801
Jan-Mar 1984	13	2,582	1,457	13,948,698
Total	22	5,924	3,289	40,716,499
Sep-Dec 1984	2	104	-	-
Jan-Mar 1985	2	202	949	1,399,723
Total	4	306	949	1,399,723
Sep-Dec 1985	1	516	120	1,116,225
Jan-Mar 1986	1	330	60	1,386,000
Total	2	846	180	2,502,225

Taking the September-December 1983 period as a base of 100 percent the Planning and Labor Economy Office showed that between 1984 and 1985 strikes were down 18.2 percent and decreased 9.1 percent in 1986; the number of workers on strike was down to 5.2 percent between 1984 and 1985 and 14.2 percent in 1986; meanwhile worker hours lost to strikes were down to 28.9 percent in 1985 and fell to 5.5 percent in 1986. The cost of hours lost came down to 3.4 percent between 1984 and 1985 and to 6.1 percent between 1985 and 1986.

In the report to the new president it will also be shown that in only 22 of the 109 enterprises where the Labor Ministry mediated agreements, the losses saved came to 2.6512 billion pesos in labor costs, based on 18,498 workers who would have stopped working for 40 days if strikes had not been avoided. Those 22 enterprises would have had to bear financial costs of 410.4 billion pesos and other costs of 354.6 billion pesos, and they would have foregone revenues of 5,5807 billion pesos in net income from operations during the 40-day strike period.

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COLOMBIA

OUTCOME OF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN ANTIOQUIA DEPARTMENT FORECAST

Medellin EL COLOMBIANO in Spanish 27 Jun 86 p 6-A

[Article by Lucia Teresa Solano B.: "What Will the Distribution Be?"]

[Text] After analyzing the election data, the calculations advanced by the different politicians show that the largest number of city halls in Antioquia will go to the Guerra sector for the Liberals and the Villegas sector for the Conservatives if the proposal of the president-elect is carried out.

Two new sectors will have mayors: the Liberal Directorate of Antioquia, Democratic Sector, led by Jesus Vallejo Mejia; and the UP [Patriotic Union], the party that won in five electoral districts.

According to Barco Vargas, distribution of the city halls would be based on the results of the 9 March elections for the Antioquia Assembly and the municipal councils of 122 municipalities in the department.

Neither More Nor Less

The Liberal Directorate of Antioquia led by Senator Bernardo Guerra Serna had 48 city halls as of 9 March. The votes it won did not increase or decrease its "posts." It keeps its 48. Even according to the Conservative data, this sector has the greater number of "posts."

Senator Jaramillo Gomez, Senator Estrada Velez, and Senator Uribe Velez won a total of 16 city halls.

William Jaramillo Gomez had 5 city halls and, with the increase of votes for him, now has 8.

Federico Estrada Velez won 1 more--that is, 6. He had 5.

Alvaro Uribe Velez did not have any but now will have 2.

NL [New Liberalism] was the big loser. This political movement had 2 city halls and the popular vote took them away. Therefore, this sector led by Senator Luis Carlos Galan may not have any city halls in any part of Antioquia.

Totals

According to the final results, the Liberal Party in Antioquia will control many municipal administrations:

Bernardo Guerra: 48
William Jaramillo: 8
Federico Estrada: 6
Alvaro Uribe: 2
Ivan Marulanda: 0

The Liberal Party won 64 city halls, an increase of 4.

Conservatism

The different Conservative groups would have 52 city halls. Before 9 March, they had 61. The only Conservative sector that would win 3 more was the sector led by the president of the Senate, Alvaro Villegas Moreno.

Ten city halls were "taken" from the sectors of Ignacio Velez Escobar, J. Emilio Valderrama, and Guillermo Velez Urreta by Liberalism, the UP, and Villegas.

The results are as follows: 25 city halls for Villegas' sector which had 22. Senator Ignacio Velez Escobar would have 8; he had 11. The sector that lost the most positions was Alvarism led by Guillermo Velez Urreta. It would have 8 but, before the elections, it had 13.

Progressivism led by former presidential nominee J. Emilio Valderrama won in 11 municipalities. It had 14 city halls before.

Former governor Oscar Montoya Montoya lost the only municipal administration that his movement had.

Final

The distribution of the 52 Conservative city halls in Antioquia Department would be as follows:

J. Emilio Valderrama: 11
Ignacio Velez Escobar: 8
Alvaro Villegas: 22
Guillermo Velez: 8
Oscar Montoya: 0

The distribution does not end there because a new movement won in 5 municipalities: the UP.

With the democratic opening and the arrival of new groups or parties to the political "arena," there were some surprises. One surprise was the votes won by the UP, not only in regions of Antioquia but in other parts of the country.

This movement defeated the traditional parties in Apartado, Mutata, Remedios, Segovia, and Yondo both on 9 March and 25 May.

These were the results:

Segovia: Liberals, 1,198; N.L., 24; Conservatives, 300; UP, 2,351.

Remedios: Liberals, 608; N.L., 43; Conservatives, 383; UP, 1,344.

Yondo: Liberals, 636; N.L., 44; Conservatives, 738; UP, 1,322.

Mutata: Liberals, 356; N.L., 25; Conservatives, 59; and UP, 1,786.

Apartado: Liberals, 2,019; N.L., 460; Conservatives, 410; and UP, 2,896.

If the proposal of President-elect Virgilio Barco Vargas is carried out, the city halls in those five municipalities will be held by leaders of the UP.

These figures do not include Medellin.

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COLOMBIA

BETANCUR INVESTMENTS IN ELECTRIC SECTOR TOTAL 493 BILLION PESOS

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 8 Jul 86 p 11-A

[Text] President Belisario Betancur's administration invested 493 billion pesos in the electrical sector during its 4-year term. Fiscal problems and problems in the sector itself made it impossible to reach the initial goal of 650 billion pesos.

This figure was supplied by the deputy minister of mines and energy, Gloria Duque de Robayo, during the inauguration of the First Colombian-French Seminar on Electrical Energy that began yesterday in the Protocol Room of the Fairs and Expositions Corporation. It will end next Wednesday.

The deputy minister said that the main challenge of the Colombian electrical sector is revision of the generation expansion plan due to the fact that current projections of demand show larger increases than those recorded in past years.

She also indicated that the country must confront the critical financial situation of the sector. She said that this was the basic reason some projects were not completed in the initially indicated term which led to the surcharges that inevitably accrue.

She considered the contact between French and Colombian experts very important for achieving technological exchange at that level with subsequent benefits for our country.

Mrs Duque de Robayo recalled that during Belisario Betancur's government, only one new generation project began, Rio Grande II. The effort of the sectorial officials was aimed at directing generation projects already under way and expanding and improving the systems of transmission, subtransmission, and distribution of energy.

The deputy minister indicated that this entailed achieving "greater coverage and efficiency in electrical service."

Energy Losses

In her speech, the official referred to the reduction of energy losses as another pressing need that has been a priority of the current government.

Efforts have been directed at analysis and diagnosis of the activities that should be completed. They have financing from FONADE [National Development Projects Fund] for each and every one of the enterprises that provides this service.

To carry out remedial measures, the sector now has cofinanced resources through the IBRD-FEN credit.

Rural Electrification

The deputy minister said in her speech that "the imperative of taking service to rural zones so that our compatriots involved in agricultural activities achieve a reasonable standard of living and, consequently, greater production has led us to consider a second phase of the National Plan for Rural Electrification."

It would benefit 150,000 new customers in the interior of the country at a cost of \$300 million. The second phase of rural electrification for the Atlantic Coast, San Andres, and Providencia will also be advanced at a cost of more than \$60 million.

Mrs Duque de Robayo reported that talks are continuing with international development banks in order to finance these two projects.

Foreign Investment

She recalled that any expansion of generation implies expansion of transmission, whether through renovation of the system or expansion of the levels of voltage.

She indicated: "Here is where our experience in technological division establishes the frame of reference for national and foreign participation in the projects of the sector, always based on the criterion indicated by the president of the republic of useful foreign investment."

She emphasized the importance that the development plan, "Change with Equity," gave the electrical sector because of its support for the objective of achieving more balanced regional development.

She indicated that the control centers, the second 50KV circuit of interconnection with the coast, the studies for new generation projects, the microcentral program, etc., have been linked to a great extent to foreign industry.

Finally she said: "At the opening of this seminar being held with statements from President Mitterrand and President Betancur, I want to express our hope that the French industry's advances in the field of electrical energy lead to greater integration with our market and favor a true transfer of technology."

COLOMBIA

OIL PRODUCTION TO TOTAL MINIMUM 424,000 B/D BY 1989

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 29 Jun 86 p 6-A

[Text] By 1989, Colombia will have increased its domestic oil production to at least 424,000 barrels per day, the president of ECOPETROL, Alfredo Carvajal Sinisterra, has announced. By the end of 1986, the production level will be 300,000 barrels.

The refining capacity at the Barrancabermeja complex will, for its part, be increased from the present 130,000 barrels per day to 170,000 by 1988.

By 1990, the new petrochemical projects which are going forward at the Barrancabermeja refinery, requiring an investment exceeding \$80 million, will go into operation.

In the past 4 years, the investments made through partnership agreements (between ECOPETROL and foreign companies) have exceeded \$1,680,000,000. Of this sum, ECOPETROL has provided 30 percent.

On the oil front, Colombia guarantees foreign investors stability and security, the president of ECOPETROL said. During a speech he gave before the Colombian-American Chamber in Miami, he set forth the basis of the policy our country is pursuing in this sector.

He said that the state enterprise will account for 55 percent of the oil production this year.

The new oil situation the country is experiencing is the result of major discoveries made in recent years. First among these is the deposit discovered by the Cravo Norte Association in Cano Limon, with recoverable reserves estimated at 700 million barrels. The daily production will be 200,000 barrels.

Also notable is the San Francisco discovery in the southern part of the country, with reserves of 80 million barrels, where daily production will be 30,000 barrels; the Apiay-Ariari field, in the Llanos Orientales (Eastern Plains) area, with reserves estimated at 90 million and a future production of 30,000 barrels per day; and the secondary recovery project in Campo Casabe, in Magdalena Medio, with an additional 70 million in reserves.

The total reserves for Colombia come to 1,300,000,000 barrels, according to the figures quoted during this address.

The total refining capacity of the country is 220,000 barrels per day, he said. In order to meet domestic consumer demand fully, minor imports of automotive gasoline will have to be made, the cost being covered by the exports of surplus crude oil Colombia is already making.

Where the transport of hydrocarbons is concerned, the speaker said that ECOPETROL administers 70 percent of a 7,491 kilometer network.

He emphasized the development of exploratory activities in recent years. The number of wells drilled in 1985 was 67, while the estimate for 1986 is 70. This is proof of the confidence foreign investors have in Colombia.

Investments totaling \$255 million were made in exploration in 1985. ECOPETROL contributed 10 percent of this sum.

Carvajal Sinisterra said that 89 percent of the area in Colombia with oil potential still remains to be explored.

In 1985, there were 86 partnership contracts in effect, 49 of them in the Llanos Orientales, showing that this is the basin in which there is greatest interest.

One of the attractive features of these partnership contracts is that this crude oil is purchased by foreign companies at the international price. Payment is made in foreign currency to the extent of 75 percent, with 25 percent in domestic currency.

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COLOMBIA

EXPERTS ANALYZE CURRENT STATUS OF COFFEE MARKET

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 5 Jul 86 pp 1-A, 4-F

[Text] The coffee bonanza in Colombia has ended, unfortunately, with the drop in the international price of the beans below \$1.70 per pound, the assistant editor of EL TIEMPO, Juan Manuel Santos Calderon, said yesterday, as the discussions sponsored by the periodical CONSIGNA, with the participation of the leading coffee authorities in the country and other officials, resumed.

Santos Calderon, who for a number of years has represented Colombia in the International Coffee Organization, compared the situation to that of an employee who has received a special bonus for a limited time, following which he again has to base his planned expenditures on his ordinary income. "Colombia earned a premium which enabled it to make improvements in the coffee industry and to accumulate a part of the surplus for which the agreement between the government and the coffee growers provided. But there will no longer be a premium, and it is necessary to return to reality," the assistant editor of EL TIEMPO said.

He noted that the projections on which the coffee agreement was based included an estimated average price of \$2.25 per pound, and exports of about 10.8 million sacks. And the balance point above which the famous surplus to be distributed three ways would be generated was a price of about \$1.75. "Colombia is already selling at less than this price, which means the boom is over."

He further warned that if the price remains at the present level, there will be no money in the future to continue providing the coffee growers with an additional TAC, for further capitalization of the National Coffee Fund, or for transferring the sums budgeted to the government.

The CONSIGNA discussion was attended by the head of the National Coffee Growers Federation, Jorge Cardenas Gutierrez, and such leaders as Eduardo Mestre, Luis Fernando Jaramillo, Carlos Lemos, Jorge Mario Eastman, Jorge Ramirez Ocampo, Juan Camilo Restrepo, Guillermo Plazas, Fernando Gaviria and Mario Calderon Rivera, among others.

In the course of his talk, Juan Manuel Santos analyzed the coffee market situation, and he said that no one should be surprised at the drop in the

price of the beans, because the considerable increase in past months was basically due to speculative factors. He gave assurance that if Brazil has a normal coffee harvest this coming year and if no freeze occurs in the days to come, the overproduction cycle on the market will begin again, and the decline in prices could continue.

However, he said that the market figures which have been released in recent days seem favorable, and if confirmed, they might point to a tightening of the market for mild coffees in the second half of the year, which could slow the decline in prices or even lead to a slight increase.

Concerning the present price situation, he recalled that after quotas were lifted at the beginning of this year, exporters plunged into the market, selling a volume of beans which raised sales for the first 6 months of the coffee year to more than 35 million sacks. "Consumers may at this time have between six and eight million sacks on hand, and thus they have control of the market," he stated.

He also noted the sales policy being pursued by the Central American countries as one factor explaining the current market development. Because they do not have a mechanism for financing exports, they are utilizing methods of placing the product wherein the price is finally established by the buyer. At this time, he said, about two million sack are being sold by this system, and this exerts heavy pressure on the market.

Santos Calderon recalled that if the International Coffee Organization index price remains below \$1.35 for 15 days, the system of export quotas will automatically be reintroduced. And he said that the price now stands at \$1.38.

Therefore, he noted, Colombia and the other producer countries should begin promptly to pursue negotiations on the price conditions and quotas which will govern the operations of the International Coffee Agreement beginning next 1 October.

He announced that several preliminary meetings within the OIC have already been held this week, but without great results, and he said that in any case the negotiations will be rather difficult. "Colombia has large stocks on hand and has achieved a high level of participation in free-market exports, which will have to be taken into account when the time comes to negotiate an agreement," he said.

He stressed that the coffee bonanza has ended, but he nonetheless noted that the additional income which the country was able to obtain made it possible to pay off a good part of the foreign debt of the National Coffee Fund, to proceed with the normal purchase of the coffee harvest, to carry out the investment plan in the amount of \$35 billion approved at the coffee conference last December, and to accumulate a surplus of about \$105 billion, which made it possible to raise the domestic price, to capitalize the Coffee Fund in part, and to transfer a sizable sum to the national government, which still remains to be used.

However, he warned that if the price remains at the present level, there will be no further money either for the TAC, for the Coffee Fund, or for the government.

In addition, the country will cease to receive about \$400 million of the total it had been thought would be earned this year if the price remained at the level of \$2.25.

All of the above considerations, Santos Calderon said, will have an effect on the development of the country's fiscal and monetary policy in the months to come, and will be crucial to the decisions adopted, including that as to whether or not to use the "jumbo" credit which is linked with International Monetary Fund oversight of the country's economic policy.

The head of the National Coffee Growers' Federation, Jorge Cardenas Gutierrez, for his part, recalled that at the beginning of this coffee year, no one dreamed that the country might place an additional 1.5 million sacks on the market or sell the product at more than \$1.30 per pound. Both of these situations, when they developed, made overall recovery of the coffee industry possible and resulted in a balance "which no one had expected."

He said that the National Coffee Fund will end the coffee year with almost all of its debts paid (including the foreign debt of almost \$400 million), and financing approaching \$40 billion. In addition, the country will receive an additional \$1,300,000,000 and will have a treasury surplus of about \$110 billion generated by the bonanza. "On balance, we will have an excellent year," he said.

He also stated that currently the figures are going against the market trend, because during this coffee year, the volume marketed will not exceed the normal total of 66 million sacks (despite the surpluses during the first half of the year), and the prospects for production in the Central American, Asiatic and African countries are not as positive as they might be.

He said there still is a considerable margin for maneuvering on the international market, and this allows a certain waiting period to see how prices develop.

The assistant head of the Federation for Marketing, Juan Camilo Restrepo, bore out the assessments made by Cardenas Gutierrez, and he said that the way in which the bonanza has been handled has made it possible for the country to export 1.5 million additional sacks, among other benefits to the country; to generate additional repayments of between \$1 billion and \$1.2 billion, and surpluses of about \$110 billion, to reestablish the Coffee Fund and to maintain a foreign exchange policy for the country which has prevented it from lapsing back into what is known as the "Dutch disease," with a loss of competitive capacity for Colombian products on foreign markets.

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COLOMBIA

HOUSEWIVES POLLED VOICE CONCERN OVER UNEMPLOYMENT, COST OF LIVING

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 29 Jun 86 pp 1-A, 7-B

[Text] Unemployment is the main problem in the country, followed very closely by the increase in the cost of living. On the other hand, concern about lack of safety has declined a little and the worst of the recession is behind us, a survey taken among middle-class housewives in four Colombian cities indicates.

The poll by the Centrum Ogilvy & Mather firm is the seventh in a series called "Listening Post," and it was carried out last March and April. Apart from assessing the expectations and feelings of housewives about Colombia and its political, economic and social problems, the status of radio broadcasting in the country and its problems and opportunities, in terms of the views of those surveyed, was taken up.

Personal and National Expectations

The housewives in Bogota and Cali are the most optimistic about their personal futures, and to a greater extent than indicated in earlier polls, while those in Medellin and Barranquilla have much less definite expectations, since 71 percent and 64 percent, respectively, said "do not know" or did not respond.

The pollsters concluded that "The increase in uncertainty among those we interviewed as to their hopes for the future is noteworthy." Fortunately, this increase is at the expense of the number with voicing the expectation that the future will be worse. At the same time, there was a slight increase in optimistic reactions."

With regard to the future of the country, a great reduction in pessimism could be seen, thanks to the preelectoral atmosphere. Uncertain opinions increased as did those that everything will remain the same, and also optimism regarding next year is beginning to appear.

Those surveyed in Bogota expressed greater confidence in a better future for Colombia, with 18 percentage points, contrasting with the 69 percent of those in Barranquilla in the "worse" category. Those interviewed in Antioquia expressed the greatest uncertainty, and the majority of those in Cali think that things will stay the same.

Almost a half of those interviewed expressed the hope that things will change after the elections, and those interviewed in Medellin were the most skeptical, with half thinking that everything will remain the same.

It is the belief of 52 percent of those who hope for some change that it will come about in the economic sector and will be reflected in solutions to the problem of unemployment, which will produce improvements in the uncertain situation and a decrease in guerrilla activity. A few hope for a decline in the rising cost of living.

Economic and Social Aspects

The interviewers concluded that "It would seem that the worst of the economic recession is behind us." They based this statement on the reduction in the number of women working and the comments to the effect that husbands are unemployed or have found second jobs. They add that "The restriction of expenditures and purchases would also seem to have been relaxed a little."

The housewives in Barranquilla are having a difficult time, and 59 percent are working; 32 percent admitted that their husbands have had to find second jobs; and 71 percent said that it is impossible for them to save anything. The housewives in Cali, on the contrary, are those who save the most, and 64 percent said they do everything possible to save and to put the money into some safe corporation.

The next section of the survey will deal with feelings of national pride, recreation and leisure, the increase in the family market basket and radio broadcasting.

The researchers carried out 430 personal interviews with housewives in Barranquilla, Bogota, Cali and Medellin, and in addition to the 18 interviewers and an editor, postgraduate students at Jorge Tadeo Lozano University in Bogota participated.

The results showed that housewives hope that things will change for the better in the country, in the economic and social areas in particular, and because the poll was taken in a preelectoral period, they indicated optimism about their personal futures and that of the nation, but also an increased uncertainty about the coming months.

Also the study concluded that those interviewed feel that the worst of the recession is behind us, and as a result they are buying more and resuming their recreational and leisure activities.

Unemployment and the Cost of Living

Unemployment proved to be the most serious problem in Colombia, with a total of 37 points, as compared to 34 for the cost of living and 20 for lack of safety, including the guerrilla threat.

However, the problems were not seen in the same way in all of the cities. The housewives in Barranquilla and Bogota mentioned unemployment in higher

Main Problems in Colombia (by city)

	Bogota	Cali	Medellin	Barranquilla	Total
Cost of Living	33	18	56	29	34
Unemployment	40	28	34	41	37
Lack of Safety (including guerrillas)	13	45	4	18	20
Other	14	9	6	12	9

Reasons for the Increase in Living Costs (by city)

	Bogota	Cali	Medellin	Barranquilla	Total
Preceding Governments	34	42	5	47	33
Present Government	25	15	56	19	28
Economic Situation in Other Countries	7	11	-	3	5
Taxes	11	11	32	15	16
Private Businessmen	4	-	-	6	2
Mafia	6	7	7	6	7
Other	13	14	-	3	9

Expectations for the Country (by city)

	Bogota	Cali	Medellin	Barranquilla	Total
Better	18	12	4	8	12
Same	27	39	20	8	24
Worse	36	28	18	69	38
Don't Know'	19	21	58	15	26
No Response					

Economic and Social Aspects

	October 84	September 85	May 86
We are using more credit in order to pay in installments	51	45	43
My husband had to find a second job	23	17	15
My husband lost his job and had difficulty finding a new one	18	16	12
I had to find a job to contribute to the family budget	37	56	42
We go out less or spend less on recreation	74	82	66
I do everything possible to save some money and put it in a safe corporation where its value will not decline	58	66	49
I can no longer save--all the income has to be spent	48	53	46

percentages, 40 and 41 points, respectively. Those in Antioquia believe that the increase in living cost is the worst problem, with a total of 56 points, as compared to 34 for lack of employment. In Cali, lack of safety ranked first, with 45 points now as compared to 32 7 months ago when the first poll was taken. Also, 22 percent of those interviewed expressed the view that the leading problem is the guerrillas, a level of perception much higher than that in the other cities.

With regard to the increase in the cost of living, it was established that the causes continue to be blamed on the government, and to an ever greater extent. "For the first time in the Listening Post series, the current government was deemed responsible for inflation to almost the same extent as the preceding governments," the survey concluded.

It was added that great concern was expressed about the effect of taxes on the increase in living costs, and the influence of the mafia continues to rank fourth, as in the earlier polls, but with a decline of 2 percentage points as compared to the last survey.

The housewives in Medellin blamed the government more forcefully than those in the other cities, to the extent of 56 percent, as compared to 25 for Bogota, which had the next highest level. In addition, those surveyed in Antioquia also assigned greater importance to taxes as a factor in rising living costs than the others.

Other causes mentioned for this problem were the preceding governments, the economic situation in other countries, and private businessmen.

After analysis of the results of the opinions expressed on the issues included in these tables and a comparison with earlier surveys, the researchers concluded that it appears that the worst of the recession is over.

5157

CSO:3348/681

COLOMBIA

COST OF LIVING DOWN 0.73 PERCENT IN JUNE

Bogota EL PAIS in Spanish 9 Jul 86 pp 1-A, 2-A

[Text] Bogota, 8 Jul (COLPRENSA)--The cost of living went down 0.73 percent in June, according to DANE [National Administrative Department of Statistics] today.

According to this state organization, the cost of living for white-collar workers went down 0.5 percent in the sixth month of the year. It went down 1.04 percent for blue-collar workers.

This has been the trend since May when inflation went down 0.72 percent.

DANE attributes this situation to the larger supply of foods on the national market.

Nevertheless, the unions claim the new results in the evolution of prices are due to the products smuggled across the Venezuelan border.

In the last 2 months, the illegal entrance of eggs, chicken, tofu, rice, and edible oils and fats has intensified.

According to the DANE reports, the rate of inflation in the first half of 1986 was 10.1 percent.

In this same period, the cost of living for white-collar workers rose 10.28 percent and, for blue-collar workers, 10.03 percent.

The only city where prices went up in June was Barranquilla where they rose 0.88 percent.

The products that had the greatest effect on the negative inflation rate in June were: potatoes, tomatoes, bananas, yucca, beets, cocoa beans, coriander, green peas, lemons, guavas, blackberries, and dried beans.

The following showed an increase in that same month: beef, chicken, shallots, onions, carrots, green beans, pineapple, butter, and sugar.

The cost of living in the cities showed the following changes in June:

Bogota	-1.32 percent
Medellin	-0.60 percent
Cali	-0.19 percent
Barranquilla	0.80 percent
Bucaramanga	-0.95 percent
Manizales	-0.02 percent

7717

CSO: 3348/699

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

BARCO ON PRESS FREEDOM--President-elect Virgilio Barco announced yesterday in a message to ANDIARIOS [Association of Colombian Newspapers] that his administration will respect freedom of the press and all the freedoms that the Constitution consecrates. In the message sent to Alejandro Galvis Ramirez and Luis Guillermo Angel, president and director of ANDIARIOS, the new president indicated: "As a firm defender of freedom of the press, I consider anything that can limit it or weaken it undesirable." Following is the text of the message from the president-elect: "I was very grateful for your cordial message in which you expressed the solidarity and esteem of the ANDIARIOS General Assembly. I am pleased to know that an organization of such national importance, which includes 24 newspapers from all the regions in Colombia, feels that the broad mandate that the Colombian people gave me by electing me president of the republic is a sign that our fatherland will advance toward justice, peace, and progress in a climate of freedom and democracy. I am grateful for the sentiments you expressed in the name of ANDIARIOS when referring to my career in public service and the victorious culmination of my presidential campaign. These sentiments are a great incentive for the task that has been imposed on me to lead our fatherland toward a destiny of prosperity, harmony, and well-being that we all want. I have noted your concern about the adoption of laws that require the press to offer services that it has offered traditionally by its own decision. As a firm defender of freedom of the press, I consider anything that can limit it or weaken it undesirable. You can be sure that my administration will respect that freedom and all the freedoms that our Constitution consecrates. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Jul 86 p 6-A] 7717

NATIONAL MOVEMENT IN OPPOSITION -- The National Movement led by senator-elect Gustavo Rodriguez Vargas opposed the "judicious opposition" decreed by ex-president Misael Pastrana Borrero against the Liberal government because it considers it "incongruous to combat an administration that has not yet begun." The Movement also thinks the Conservative party "lacks at this time legitimate leadership that can take decisions that are binding on all its members" and points out that the political leadership was not elected by secret ballot as is required by statutory mandate. In a communique issued with the support of Bertha Hernandez Ospina, Rodriguez Vargas, the elected representatives, and council members, the Movement says that "the thinking of ex-president Mariano Ospina Perez was twisted when it is affirmed that the eminent Colombian said that if the Conservatives did not get 40 percent of the votes of the two traditional parties added together then it should not be part of the government." Moreover the Movement thinks that the disastrous defeat of Conservative candidate Alvaro Gomez Hurtado "may be a heavy weight on the conscience" of those who led to it by the egregious mistakes they made. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 1 Jun 86 p 9-A] 12856/12781

TRADE WITH PRC--The Mixed Colombian-Chinese Trade Commission held a meeting in the capital of People's China, Beijing, with Castro Guerrero and Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Zheng Tuobin presiding. Its purpose was to explore new areas for, as well as a significant increase in, trade. One possibility would be plants for the production of coffee using soy lecithin for distribution throughout Asia, which Colombia is prepared to set up in the free zone of that nation. Colombia will also increase its sales of ordinary coffee, although the rate of consumption of this beverage there is low. China expressed interest in buying such products as cacao, sugar, unginced cotton, tobacco, crackers, false teeth, brown sugar, gray and portland cement, precious stones, leather products, plywood and phonograph needles. The sale of 10,000 tons of bananas was promised. China will sell services involving the dredger which has been used on a number of projects in Colombia, to the extent of \$20 million in 1985. In exchange, Colombia will sell its products such as those mentioned above. China, for its part, will sell to Colombia engineering products, fishing boats, paraffin (ECOPETROL is already purchasing 8,000 tons), farm machinery and agroindustrial technology for sectors such as those concerned with the production of silk, bamboo craft items, grains, poultry, eggs, seeds, fish, porcelain plumbing fixtures and free zones. [Excerpt] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 1 Jul 86 p 1-D] 5157

NORTH CERREJON EXPORTS--Riohacha--An authorized source at the Carbocol Intercor Association, north zone, has revealed that 3,613,000 tons of coal had been shipped via 64 vessels, as of last May. He added that in that same month, several ships scheduled to transport about 250,000 tons of Cerrejon coal--the Viva, Celtic Princess, Thensho Maru, Nichigo Maru and Bulk Venturer-- were waiting to load in the ore section of the port at Bahia Portete. The total income obtained from these sales comes to about \$100 million. This sum includes the estimated prices at the loading port and the prices at the port of destination. The main purchasers of this Colombian mineral product are Denmark, Sweden, Finland, the United States, Norway, Holland, Germany, Spain, Italy, Greece and Israel. The expected exports also represented an important stage for the Carbocol Intercor Association, since "They led to the signing of new long-term sales contracts in countries such as France, Greece, Finland and the United States." Finally, it was possible to establish that the price of coal has remained at about \$37 per ton, and that in addition, it has its own market with prospects for further expansion. The goals established by the operating company in the northern zone for this year call for "selling 6 million tons of coal and removing about 48 million cubic meters of sterile materials," this same source said. With the large-scale production stage launched, using basic installations recently put into operation, Colombia will gradually become an important coal-producing nation. [By Efrain Ovalle] [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 1 Jul 86 p 4-D] 5157

CSO:3348/681

HONDURAS

THREE UNIONS LEAVE FEHSTRAL FOLLOWING CONFLICT IN LEADERSHIP

San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 1 May 86 p 11

[Text] Three unions decided to leave the Honduran Federation of Food, Drink, Tobacco, and Hotel Workers (FEHSTRAL), because of the dictatorial manner by which Oscar Escalante took possession of the presidency of the federation during the Fifth Regular Convention, by spurning the union leadership of the Cos [as published].

The unions leaving FEHSTRAL are the following: the Workers Union of the NUMARA company of Honduras (SITRACONH), the Flour Industry Workers Union (SINTRAIHCA), and the Workers Union of Hotel Copantl Sula (SITRAHOCS).

According to the president of the Sula Flour Mill Workers Union, Hector Manuel Pavon, the withdrawal of the Union was owing to the dictatorial manner by which Oscar Escalante directed the Fifth Regular Convention, and to the taxing way he forced the delegates to elect the new board of directors. That, according to the director, is not to the liking of the groups of the North Coast.

On another matter, he assured, Escalante no longer responds to worker interests, in view of the fact that he is a front-line manager of the National Party.

Pavon indicated that as soon as the new board of directors of FEHSTRAL was elected, Oscar Escalante imposed an application form, which he had brought [to the convention] already completed, that lists only the directors from the southern and central zones.

For his part, the president of the Union of NUMAR of Honduras company, Gaspar Edgardo Inestroza, declared that he had withdrawn from the federation so as not to have to respond to the directives of Oscar Escalante "who no longer fits in the labor movement."

Inestroza said that Escalante's behavior is eminently political and that he acting arrogantly with regard to the appeals of the workers.

He indicated that while giving his speech to the Fifth Regular Convention of FEHSTRAL, Escalante proselytized on behalf of his political cause, and showed his disapproval of the signing of the arbitration agreement worked out by the Worker and Campesino Movement during the crisis in April of 1985, by stressing that we workers had distorted the Constitution of the Republic with that arbitration.

The directors from the northern zone believe this case should be a call to the General Center of Workers (CGT) to do some reflecting, because the effort of the worker and campesino movement is to achieve unity in all sectors, not to divide as is now happening.

They also gave assurances that although their unions withdrew from FEHSTRAL, it does not mean that they are withdrawing from CGT.

He pointed out that they are also considering the possibility of creating a new, alternative federation so that the other food service unions may be spared the type of imposition generated by directors who consider themselves the heads of the organizations.

13106/12781
CSO: 3248/498

HONDURAS

LABOR ACCUSES GOVERNMENT OF NOT ADDRESSING ISSUES

San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 2 May 86 p 3

[Text] The director of the Unit Federation of Workers of Honduras (FUTH), Williams Castro, yesterday accused the government of the Republic of having irresponsibly neglected the boundary line marking the Honduras-Salvadorean border, because it was immersed in the warmongering plans of the Reagan government in the Central American region.

At the same time, he stated that the foreign debt amounts to 5 billion lempiras and that its magnitude becomes the principal check on the nation's economic development, and therefore we workers and campesinos unite on this day in the "Latin American outcry that the debt should not be paid; it is unpayable."

For his part, Fernando Meza, of the Union Federation of National Workers of Honduras (FESITRANH), argued that the brotherhood has put on historical record its concern over the critical economic and social situation that confronts the country that is owing to its unemployment and its prevailing under-employment.

Meza said that "up until now, the government has not considered employment as a top priority objective for resolving the social problems of the country; more than anything, its policy is oriented toward mitigating the correlated problems of fiscal deficit, balance of payments, and inflation control.

Meanwhile, the president of the Independent Federation of Workers of Honduras (FITH), Israel Salinas, fired away at unemployment and at the presence of American troops and the "Contras" in the country, in addition to condemning the layoff of government office workers.

Salinas said that in Honduras worker stability is not respected and the governments in power are the first to fire workers for political sectarianism, so that people who were active in the campaigns can be hired. At the same time he pointed out that even though this government is not like that of Suazo Cordova, it still does not have defined goals aimed at solving the economic problem assailing the country.

As he spoke, the president of the National Association of Campesinos of Honduras (ANACH), Julin Mendez, asserted that the government does not have an immediate plan that would modify the agrarian reform and aimed and that would put an end to large estate ownership in order to incorporate the campesino class into national productivity.

Julin said that agrarian reform does not exist; therefore, the campesino class will be obliged to take land throughout the country, despite imprisonment and the sacrifice of lives that this can cause.

Also, other popular sectors referred to the present government in accusing terms, and they warned it to put development plans into action for the purpose of solving economic problems, besides pointing to it [the government] as a defender of the interests of the Reagan administration in the Central American region.

13106/12781

CSO: 3248/498

HONDURAS

ANACH LEADER CALLS FOR LAND REFORM

San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 2 May 86 p 17

[Text] About 95 percent of the land controlled by large land owners is going idle and the majority is communal land, stated Antonio Julin Mendez, president of the National Association of Honduran Campesinos (ANACH).

When people present applications to the National Agrarian Institute (INA), in most cases it turns out that the landowners do not have papers and, "therefore, they are afraid that an agrarian reform planned and organized by the State will be instituted."

The ex-deputy made these statements in regard to remarks made by the president of the FENAGH, Colonel Miguel Angel Garcia, who asserted that 60 percent of the land awarded to the campesinos is not being worked. For this reason, the INA will be asked to review these properties before more is given away.

"With such an assertion, they are trying to boycott the agrarian reform in defense of their having uncultivated land," he declared.

These are untrue statements, he affirmed, and he justified his position saying that 638 campesinos centers with 22,330 organized beneficiaries do not have land and for a decade they have been applying to the INA [for land] without ever receiving a response.

Mendez also said that as long as the INA is directed, controlled and administered by professionals related to the landowners, they are never going to execute land reform; it will be impossible.

The new director of the INA has referred to a restructuring of the institute, but this organization should be aimed at "rooting out several people who are hostile to the process. In the same way also, the National Agrarian Council should be completely reformed. If a case is resolved in the Council favorable to the campesinos, it [as published] will change," stated Mendez.

13106/12781
CSO: 3248/498

ST CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

TEXT OF SIMMONDS' ADDRESS TO CARICOM SUMMIT MEETING

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 5 Jul 86 pp 4, 12

[Text of address by Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds at the Seventh Conference of Caricom Heads of Government in Georgetown, Guyana, 1 Jul 86]

[Text]

Mr. Chairman.....

You have been regaled and perhaps even surfeited with a spate of Caribbean oratory, and I feel a great temptation to come before you and say hello, thank you and goodbye.

I am restrained, however, by the desire first to congratulate President Hoyte on his assumption of the Chair of our Institution and to trust that under his Leadership in the next year, our Institution will make significant progress and continue to move us even closer to that dream of a single Caribbean identity and a Caribbean nation.

I must remain a little longer also, to discharge the pleasant duty; in fact it is more than a duty, it is really an expression of my gratitude.

I am grateful for the opportunity to express my deep appreciation to President Hoyte the Government and People of Guyana for the outstanding hospitality that has been lavished upon me and my delegation since our arrival. I can attest to the warmth and friendliness of the Guyanese people from my personal experience dating back to my days as a young student at University College of the West Indies in 1955; and I recall my first Christmas, in fact the first Christmas I ever spent away from home. It fell on a Sunday and it was the first time in my life that I ever danced on a Sunday. But, I enjoyed on that day the hospitality of a Guyanese lady whom I came to know only as Aunt Val. As I was rescued from what would otherwise have been a very sad Christmas day, by a Guyanese student by the name of Lloyd Perry and taken to this lady's home and received with no notice whatsoever, as one of the family of Guyanese students who were enjoying a very Happy Christmas. And I've never forgotten that.

Meeting as we are in Guyana, the Headquarters of CARICOM, and the home country of one of the four original signatories to the Treaty, I cannot resist the temptation to be retrospective and reflective in my own view of the Caribbean Community. I recall the ready wit and keen mind of your late President Forbes Burnham, but not only that. He earned his place in the history of the Regional Integration Movement as one of the original Signatories of the Treaty of Chaguaramas and secured it by the constancy with which, over the years he supported and remained committed to the objectives of CARICOM.

I welcome back to the CARICOM Councils, the Hon. Errol Barrow, Prime Minister of Barbados. He too was one of the original Architects of CARICOM. He spent 10 years away from centre stage being, in 1976 a victim of the workings of Democracy. He returns now, a victor, through the workings of the same process.

Who can avoid thoughts of the demise of the ill-fated West Indies Federation, the agony of the Eight, the salvage by CARIFTA, and the promise of CARICOM? These musings prompt us to ask ourselves the question - why CARICOM, why do we continue to pursue the dream of Regional Integration, what is its Raison D'etre? I am certain you have all of the conventional replies. You have them Pat. These technical reasons were summarised for us by our wise men 2 years ago when they indicated "that through integration and cooperation we can together achieve a total result in economic development which is greater than the sum of our individual efforts acting alone".

You will know too that our individual markets are small and we need the larger market which CARICOM provides so as to stimulate the growth of our productive sectors and provide the employment our people so sorely need. You will tell me that you realise that our economies are at the mercy of the International Community - that events, over which we have no control, in the developed countries, like lower prices for primary commodities, and higher prices for finished products and machinery, interest rate fluctuations, management, or lack of it, of deficits, protectionist trends buffet us about like reeds in the wind. Then you will admit that you came to the conclusion that it is by banding ourselves together and presenting a unified front in the International Forums that we can hope to influence the course of events.

Your answers are completely correct. Your conclusions have the blessing and sanction of the experts. These reasons for togetherness, however, were also valid when the Federation foundered and collapsed. They were valid when the "Little Eight" was stillborn. They are still relevant today while we find ourselves unable to clear up all misunderstandings about the Nassau understanding and implement it. They are cogent even though sometimes our perceptions of what is in our national interest prevent us from implementing what we accept to be good for the common weal. Our reasons for cooperation were every bit as strong during the 7 years that our Heads of Government could not find it convenient to meet.

Indeed, the Regional Integration Movement has suffered failures, severe trials and stormy tribulations and has emerged scarred, but resolute, beaten but not vanquished. This phenomenon cannot be explained by the mere platitudes of economic necessity. There is a deeper and more fundamental motivation for it.

I believe that the Founding Fathers identified that intrinsic motivation in the very first sentence of the preamble to the Treaty of Chaguaramas and I quote:

"The Governments of the contracting States, determined to consolidate and strengthen the bonds which have historically existed among their peoples".

CARICOM therefore was born out of a desire to consolidate and strengthen something which, though intangible was already in existence. The people who make up this community are historically and emotionally bound together, and this innate affinity cannot be destroyed or severed by logic or argument.

The person is not born who can convince any of us that Sir Frank Worrell, Sir Garfield Sobers, Clive Lloyd, Lance Gibbs or Vivian Richards do not belong to each of us and to all of us. Can logical argument that there is no West Indies, the formal entity diminish the esteem, nay the reverence with which the West Indies Cricket Team is regarded?

CARICOM as conceived in its infancy was about the development of people and so says the very first instrument promulgated by the Founding Fathers - the preamble. This is strongly enunciated in the various paragraphs of the preamble which declares that the architects of the document, share "a common determination to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of their peoples for full employment and improved standards of work and living".

They were "conscious that these objectives can most rapidly be obtained by the optimum utilisation of available human and natural resources of the region". They were "convinced of the need to elaborate an effective regime by establishing and utilising institutions destined to enhance the economic, social and cultural development of their peoples".

The creation of the University of the West Indies was one of the mechanisms designed by our predecessors to help us achieve the objective of developing our human resources. Today this institution, and all of us, mourn the passing of one of its illustrious Leaders - the late Vice-Chancellor, Mr. A. Z. Preston. We have lost an outstanding Educator and Administrator and I offer condolences to his family and his associates at the University. Mr. Preston joins the honour roll of illustrious sons and daughters who have helped to make the University one of the success stories of Caribbean cooperation. This Institution has grown in size, scope, in influence and in Campuses, and it has served the region well.

We who suffer the deprivation of not having Campuses still wish to make University Education available to more of our people. We will therefore continue to press for the expansion of University services in our countries, the recognition and accreditation of appropriate courses of training conducted in our countries, and the construction and equipping of higher education facilities through the allocation of adequate resources from the regional EDF Aid Programme.

The University, indeed the entire Institution of CARICOM, has a significant role to play in preparing our people to solve the problems of today and to open new vistas of opportunity for the generations of tomorrow. CARICOM was intended to provide employment for the people of the region, by increasing Intra-Regional Trade and Investment. Early successes in the facilitation of trade led to the creation of jobs throughout the region, but some of these jobs were just as quickly lost over the last few years as trade difficulties arose and still remain.

There have been consistent efforts in various quarters to revitalise Intra-Caricom Trade. We in St. Kitts and Nevis have done our share. We have been engaged in a barter arrangement with Guyana whereby we sell shoes made in St. Kitts, to Guyana and purchase Guyana rice in turn. In this Meeting we will continue to address the very difficult issue of the multi-lateral clearing facility and the establishment of some form of trade credit facility. Increased employment opportunities for our young people in particular can be a direct result of the resolution of these problems.

Our concern for our young people, the flower of our region, has never been more acute. As we achieve improvements in living standards and also in expectations, they become vulnerable to the machinations of unscrupulous profiteers who would make them victims to the deadly dangers of illicit drugs or corrupt them to assist in trafficking.

We in the OECS have already taken the decision to mount an all out offensive against this threat to the fibre and fabric of our society, by exchange of information, imposing stiffer penalties, and introducing legislation for the forfeiture of the proceeds of drug-related offences, among other things. It is my firm belief, if the recommendations of the recent meeting of CARICOM Attorneys General is a guide, that CARICOM will be equally resolute in implementing measures to stamp out this scourge.

In taking an overview of the process of Regional Integration, we must of necessity take note of the Sub-Regional Organisation, the OECS, and recognise that there has been a deepening of relationships within the Organisation. A few short weeks ago we returned to Basseterre, where our Treaty was signed, to celebrate our 5th Anniversary, and to reaffirm our commitment to work together for the good of the region's people. Let me assure my colleagues and the people of the region, that there is no polarising in our attitude to the region as a whole. Rather, we bring a stronger and deeper commitment to further the objectives of the wider Caribbean Community.

The OECS, perhaps not by that name, but certainly in concept was visualised by the Founding Fathers of CARICOM in that they recognised the need for special consideration to be given to the Lesser Developed Countries, and provided in the Treaty of Chaguaramas for special measures for the LDC's.

It is stated in Article 4 - as one of the objectives of the community "The sustained expansion and continuing integration of economic activities, the benefits of which shall be equitably shared taking into account the need to provide special opportunities for the Less Developed Countries".

An annual review of the special regime for the LDC's is an obligation under the Treaty, the purpose of this review being to improve the measures for the LDC's. This view is supported by Article 62 of the Common Market Annex which stipulates that there should be an annual review of the "need for strengthening existing mechanisms or introducing new ones to provide greater benefits to the Less Developed Countries", for submission to the Conference of Heads of Government.

Some may cynically seek to question the relevance of the continued distinction between MDC's and LDC's in the light of the variety of TEMPORARY economic setbacks suffered by our MDC's or larger members. Most of our problems are of course related to our small size and there is a growing international sensitivity to the special problems of small island, independent countries.

The story of the encounter between Sir Winston Churchill and Lady Astor may serve to illustrate the point that there will always be a need for special consideration to be given to the smaller members of CARICOM.

Winston Churchill as it is well known was not avert to an occasional, more than occasional pint of beer in addition to his cigar. The story is told that on one occasion when perhaps he might have been delivering a vituperative oration that Lady Astor reprimanded him in the words:

Astor: Winston you are drunk

Churchill: Yes, Madame, I am drunk tonight and you are ugly. However, tomorrow I will be sober.

There are of course, obvious limitations to the analogy. Though we are small we are in fact very beautiful countries. Whereas our MDC brethren are reeling under the impact of adverse economic circumstances, their morning of recovery will come. We however, will always be small.

Small of course is relative. Internationally we are all small, if not in physical size, in development. For this reason we need to coordinate and consolidate our positions in respect of international issues, wherever possible, so that we can have an impact upon world events.

The recent Chernobyl Disaster and its effect on neighbouring countries suggests to us that we must be more strident in our opposition to nuclear arms and also to the establishment of nuclear power plants in the region.

We must continue to condemn the evil that is Apartheid, and call on all countries to ostracise, isolate, and implement the strongest possible sanctions against the White Minority Regime which oppresses our Brothers and Sisters in South Africa.

Finally, we must ourselves engage in a process of examination and appraisal of ourselves, our systems, our policies, our attitudes, so that we may create and maintain the best climate for our people to participate freely in the process of human development which was envisioned and so highly regarded by the Founding Fathers.

Let us, as required by our Charter, ever strive to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of our people for a better quality of life!

/9317

CSO: 3298/518

ST CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

PLANT CLOSINGS ELICIT CRITICISM FROM LABOR ORGAN

Questions on MKK Failure

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 11 Jun 86 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

As readers will see, we report on our front page today the closure of the garment factory formerly operated on the Industrial Estate by M.K.K. Ltd.

This development is interesting for a number of reasons.

In the first place, it is interesting because it is yet another factory which is closed down with the resulting loss of jobs.

It indicates what a mess really exists on the industrial scene. No real development is taking place but a great deal of deception is being practised upon the people of this country.

It is only in our last editorial in a completely different context we mentioned the closure of Medusa and of TSI. At that time we did not mention Century Shoe or Dan Dan Garments Ltd or Caribbean Paper Products Ltd.

Now less than a week later we are having to report the closure of another plant and the loss of another 84 jobs.

It is difficult to come to any other conclusion but that we are playing with the lives of our young people. We do not at the moment seem

able to guarantee them any security of employment or any stability in planning their future.

And we have made the point before is that what makes this situation worse is that all these closures are taking place under a government which claims to favour private enterprise and capitalist development and which is bolstered by the Caribbean Basin Initiative.

If business is disappearing so fast under a government that professes to be kindly disposed to business we hesitate to think what would have happened if the government had a reputation of being hostile to business.

It really is a case of "with friends like our present government, one does not need enemies."

The contrast is clear for even the blind to see. There are those who continue to give out that the Labour Party is hostile to commerce. Yet under Labour business flourished.

The news of the failure of MKK Ltd. is interesting for yet another reason, namely, the history of MKK Ltd. itself.

The factory began operations on January 13th this year. By Wednesday 19th February, i.e. just over one month after its start up we reported in a lead article that trouble was brewing at the factory.

Three days later on Saturday 22nd February, we reported that police had been called in to order the MKK workers off the factory premises and that thereafter, the workers had been locked out.

The next development was that a press release was aired over the government owned and controlled radio and television service the next day to the effect that the company was restructuring its

operations and that the workers had been temporarily laid off.

We beg our readers to note two things:

One, the Press Release was issued only after this newspaper made public the information concerning what was happening at MKK.

Two, there was widespread speculation at the time that the Press Release was prepared not by the company but by the Ministry of Trade.

Three days after that Press Release, on Wednesday 26th February, we reported that 80 of the 100 workers at the plant had been given the sack.

It was some time before the plant began operations again. Now about 3 months later it has shut again.

The news of the failure of the business began to leak since last Thursday. But after our reporter started researching the story in earnest yesterday, Tuesday June 10th the Ministry of Trade issued a Press Release.

The Press Release stated that the Ministry had been "informed" that MKK has been experiencing difficulties in the production of its products and that as a result the company had laid off its workers and suspended operation for the time being.

Here are some questions:

(1) Who informed the Ministry of Trade? Was it MKK or is this a case where MKK might have "slipped out" unknown to the Ministry?

(2) When was the Ministry informed? The workers were laid off last week-end; if the Ministry had the information at that time why was it only released yesterday? What is the Ministry's aim in releasing the information? To inform the public or to forestall the Labour Spokesman?

(3) What is the nature of the difficulties being experienced by the company? Are they managerial, operational, financial, marketing or a combination of all?

(4) How long is "for the time being" during which the workers are laid off and operations suspended? Does the Ministry know the answer to these questions or have they just used euphemistic language to soften the blow?

(5) What does the Ministry mean it is investigating the matter? If indeed it has been given full information, what need for further investigation? Is it not the truth that it is the Spokesman which has alerted the Ministry?

(6) Does the Ministry really expect the factory to open up again? If this is a genuine expectation, what is the meaning

of the sentence in the release that "every effort is being made to safeguard the interest of the workers"?

The foregoing questions arise naturally out of the contents of the Press Release. But there is another question to which the public should be given an answer.

Is it true that the start up capital was provided by National

Bank out of the savings of the people and that as in the case of Medusa the Company is closing owing the Bank hundreds of thousands of dollars? Further, is it true that the company sought to remove the machinery from St. Kitts secretly?

For the good of the workers in particular and St. Kitts in general we hope the public will be provided with true and proper answers to all the above questions,

Planning Deficiencies

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 28 Jun 86 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

On our front page today, we carry the sequel to a story which we began reporting on last week.

Last week Friday morning there was much commotion in Basseterre. A group of some 80 workers employed by a garment manufacturing firm, Karibbean Garments Limited, took to the streets to dramatise their plight.

As we told the story last week, the workers had turned out to work but had not been allowed into the plant because, as they were told by the senior management person present, there was no money to pay them. The bank he said, had refused to advance the \$7,000 he had requested to pay them.

In addition to the foregoing facts, we have to set out a number of related facts in order to put our comments in perspective.

First, the company started operations here less than 3 months ago.

Secondly, less than 3 weeks before another factory which had been in operation for a short time - less than 6 months - had closed down its operations.

Thirdly, the two factories seem to have been inter-related as the executives of Karibbean are claiming that the closure of MKK had a serious impact upon them.

Fourthly, as we understand it, both factories were manufacturing for the U.S market. Both, therefore should have been able to qualify for certain benefits under the CBI and also under the special provisions announced by President Reagan in St. George's.

Fifthly, we are advised and do verily believe that the company Karibbean Garments Limited has as its legal advisers a firm of lawyers which includes in its membership a government minister.

The matters we have set out enable us to raise a number of points for discussion. In the first place, if factories are just opening and closing in a short time, something must be very wrong indeed.

It seems to point to a lack of proper planning and groundwork, no doubt on the part of the self-styled entrepreneurs but also on the part of the government.

There must be something wrong if we are not attracting enterprises with solid bases and good long term prospects, but instead are having to make do with half-baked fly-by-night operations. Something is WRONG, DREADFULLY WRONG.

It has to do with the government being concerned with show rather than with substance. Rather than analyse to find the causes of the inability to attract viable enterprises, they will allow anybody to pull a fast one just so that they could boast that something is happening.

They have placed themselves in so desperate a situation that one can almost hear them praying nightly "Lord, send us something

anything." They are not able to concern themselves with quality, viability, durability or integrity.

But that is not good for the country. It creates an image of industrial and commercial instability and such an image is not attractive to reputable business concerns.

Nor is it good for young workers. The experience can so disorient them that they will fail to display the commitment, discipline and productivity which are vital to help us build an industrial society especially in this high tech age.

We use this opportunity to say to the young workers that they ought not to be caught up in the same situation again and again. If they are, they are not learning. Those who suffer the experience once should learn the need to be organised for their protection in trade unions.

We recognise that the government has confused workers concerning the relevance and usefulness of trade unions. But experience is the best teacher and a burnt child should never again play with fire.

Nor are the workers to be fooled now that they do not need trade unions because the government has passed a law to protect them. Whatever law has been passed the unity of the workers is their best protection.

The next question we raise is this: Why would a bank refuse to make an advance of E.C.\$7,000 to a properly organised and run business which was exporting to

the U.S. market? The only proper answer has to be that the bank considered it too high a risk to contract a debt either of \$7,000 simply or \$7,000 plus what they already owed. If after less than 3 months a company becomes too big a financial risk to receive the backing of a bank, that company is clearly not built upon a solid foundation.

If after less than 3 months a company cannot meet its payroll because it cannot raise a loan of \$7,000 locally, it suggests that the company never brought any money with it in the first place, but that it was financed entirely out of local funds.

Not even the inept Planning Minister in this government can argue that it is a defensible strategy of development to allow outsiders to use up locally mobilised savings; that is certainly not helpful in the short term and is useful in the long term only if the venture succeeds and grows and earns foreign exchange.

Where the venture fails, it is a case of local fools making money for foreign wise men to spend it.

Moreover, we are denying local people with ideas the opportunity to get off the ground because of the lack of venture capital.

The next issue we wish to raise is the excuse of the Prime Minister given again in this case that he was unaware of the situation.

Let us begin with the simple proposition: it is the Prime

Minister's duty to know. He is not God although he often behaves as if he is a god. He cannot know everything. But it is his duty to know. He cannot escape by pleading ignorance as an excuse.

If he does not know something is wrong, dreadfully wrong. The Minister of Trade MUST have known what was going on with MKK and Karibbean Garments. If he did not know, then he is not worthy of the job and the Prime Minister should take it away. If he cannot do that, Something is wrong, dreadfully wrong.

If the Trade Minister did know, but did not inform his Prime Minister until the Prime Minister was faced with a crisis, then something is wrong, dreadfully wrong.

Even if the Minister of Trade failed to inform the Prime Minister either because he himself did not know or because he had no sufficient regard for his Prime Minister, still his colleague Minister who is the firm's legal adviser should have told the Prime Minister. If that Minister knew and did not tell the Prime Minister, clearly something is wrong.

But that lawyer/Minister may have had difficulty in sharing with Cabinet Colleagues information gleaned in the lawyer - client relationship. If that is the case, that demonstrates the conflict of interest against which we have spoken all along.

And that would demonstrate that something, nay some things are definitely WRONG.

/9317

CSO: 3298/518

ST CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

BRIEFS

NEW YOUTH COUNCIL--St Kitts now has a Nation Youth Council. The Council was established during a meeting at the Youth Centre on Victoria Road last week Thursday night, 15th June, and had the participation of representatives of 12 youth organizations from throughout St Kitts. The establishment of the National Youth Council comes after months of discussions among youth leaders and the examination of proposals pertaining to its structure and purpose. The executive committee comprises Michael Blake as President, Val Henry Vice President, Essington Watts, 2nd Vice President and Theodore Browne as 3rd Vice President. The Secretary General is Shirley Adams with Carlene Mills as Assistant Secretary General, Erickson Cumberbach, Treasurer, and Charles McMaster as Assistant Treasurer. Three other persons soon to be nominated by the Management Committee will complete the executive. The St Kitts Youth Council will seek to assist in the overall development of young people, youth organizations and the entire country. It is felt that the needs, interests and concerns of all youths will now be addressed in a more organized and effective manner. A General Assembly Meeting of the Council will be held shortly to formulate a number of programmes. [Text] [Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 25 Jun 86 p 7] /9317

CSO: 3298/518

ST LUCIA

REPORTAGE, COMMENT ON LABOR PARTY'S ANNUAL CONVENTION

Loyalty Pledge

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 21 Jun 86 p 1

[Text]

PROSPECTIVE Labour Party general election candidates will be called upon to pledge loyalty to party leader Julian Hunte when the SLP holds its annual convention at Choleau tomorrow.

The Castries North East constituency group of the SLP will be presenting a resolution to the convention calling on prospective election candidates to express their loyalty to Hunte, who took over as party leader in 1984.

The resolution also wants election candidates to pledge their total commitment to the supporters and constitution of the party

A resolution urging the party to abolish the need for income tax exit certificates when it gets into power will also be debated at the convention.

Exit certificates are required for all persons leaving the island on overseas trips. They cost five dollars each.

But the Gros Islet constituency branch of the SLP is contending that the need for tax clearance certificates was curtailing the freedom of movement of St Lucians as guaranteed in the constitution.

It wants the SLP "when it resumes office as the Government" to abolish the need for these certificates.

Another resolution by the Gros Islet branch calls on the SLP to consider job creation as its main priority in the formulation of its social and economic plan for the country.

A resolution by the Dennery South constituency group will urge the SLP executive to work out a plan of action to reintroduce election to Village and Rural Councils and to allow these Councils greater participation in the development of their areas at all levels.

PLP Organ's Comment

Castries CRUSADER in English 21 Jun 86 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

Democracy is not so much an attitude but more a way-of-life. It must be instinctive and natural, not convenient and opportunistic. The new-born St. Lucia Labour Party which surfaced after the 1982 General Election started with a wrong analysis of the political "tea-leaves". They interpreted the results of the 1982 General Election in St. Lucia as a total repudiation of the Left even in the face of Rickey Singh's analysis to the contrary in Caribbean Contact. Conveniently the new leadership discounted all charges of electoral malpractice and the cumulative effect of a split-vote and held on to the view that the electorate as a whole was swinging to the right at an alarming rate. Their oversimplistic view was that America was "going right" and consequently the whole world must follow.

The SLP Leadership engineered a switch from Cenac to Hunte at the Corinth Convention. This was not a popular move originating on the floor of the Convention or in the bosom of the Constituency Groups. It was a contrived and manipulated move canvassed and stage-managed by a small group of "fixers" in the Party. The very manner in which the transfer of leadership was effected has remained to plague the inventor. Real democracy took a beating then and contrived solutions became the order of the day.

Since then the Party has not settled well under the new leadership. The strangest developments have taken place within the ranks of Labour. Who would expect that the same Neville Cenac who connived at the leadership switch would within a matter of months be at logger heads with the Leader whom he had graciously installed there? The first crack came when the Leader sent an invitation to Winston Cenac to attend the

Dennerly Convention in the capacity of guest-observer. Winston Cenac felt that he had an unmistakable lien on the Soufriere seat and should have been invited to attend as a leader of the Soufriere delegation. He felt that he had a stronger claim to being at the Convention than Hunte himself! On top of this episode of bruised egos the Party Leader made a behind-the-scenes play at wresting Laborie Constituency from Neville Cenac and this introduced a new element of irritation.

On the other hand there was Peter Josie bristling at the fact that the same "fixers" who were opposed to changing the Party Constitution at the Vieux Fort Convention to allow him to lead the Party were the very ones who piloted the change of Constitution at the Corinth Convention to allow Julian Hunte to assume the mantle of leadership. Once again principle gave way to convenience as a cornerstone of the operations of the New Labour Party. Peter Josie must have a rankling resentment for a Leader who stayed well clear of the intense struggles of the Seventies and slipped into office by a sleight-of-hand in the Eighties ahead of Josie himself who almosst single-handedly organised the St. Lucia Labour Party's showing in the 1982 Elections.

At the Corinth Convention Kenneth Foster tried his best to avert the cosy leadership switch which was taking place but found that the ground-work of hand-picking delegates and neutralising opponents had been well done and there was insufficient time to free-up the process, so he went along with a measure of resignation with the idea of a new leader. Nevertheless when Julian Hunte moved to consolidate his own support in the Party at the expense of stalwarts like Kenneth Foster the battle was joined. The Party Leader's last statement at Jambette almost striking candidates who had committed indiscretions in the past from the Party's List of candidates, Foster then realised that his very survival in the Party necessitated an attack on Hunte's leadership.

But these are only a few of Julian Hunte's problems. He is called upon to rein-in his splenetic Chairman Tom Walcott. He has the problem of showing his face to the rank-and-file of the Party he is supposed to lead throughout the island. In terms of the New Politics, Almanacs at Christmastime might go some way in exposing the face but the People insist on seeing the very warts on their Leader's face and this involves non-stop touring of the country-side. Then there is the problem of containing and balancing the various tendencies in the Party. The hoary Right Wing, the grasping Middle-of-the-Roaders and the Militant Tendency with its slow insidious method of elevation and subversion. The Militant Tendency played a key role in Julian Hunte's elevation in the Party....

This week when the St. Lucia Labour Party goes to La Fargue there will be a historic irony in the fact that the structural problems within the Executive of the Labour Party started at an ill-fated Convention at the same venue when Labourite George Murray walked out of the Convention and left Kenneth Foster to stack the Party Executive with whichever of Foster's supporters were on hand. The St. Lucia Labour Party has reaped a whirlwind of confusion from the somewhat unfortunate incident and the Market Steps re-echoed with the diatribes of the Murray and Foster factions for years after. It all started in La Fargue and successive leaders have exploited this arrangement for their convenience. Today at La Fargue the problem has returned to plague some of its inventors.

The Party will be going into the Convention with a packed agenda which has all the right items including Party songs. The election of Officers is down on the Agenda for all posts except the post of Party Leader which at present is the biggest bone of contention in the Party. Following the Jambette debacle all the potential leaders in the Party have expressed the view that they are willing to throw their respective hats into the ring but

they more than others would realise that Labour Conventions are not a matter of free open voting. The Conventions turn on the "fixers" and if the aspirants have not got down to the business of "fixing" then all their on-the-ground popularity will come to nought, and once again it will be a question of Labour's Love Lost!

To many the crowning irony will be the exclusion of the Party Leadership from the voting contest when at this point in time the Party needs such an endorsement more than anything else on the Agenda. In a comparatively short space of time Party Leader Julian Hunte has stumbled repeatedly in his leadership role. He bungled the Taxi-Men' Protest. He made an unsuccessful bid to negotiate a seat in the Senate from the incumbent Senators. He foolishly challenged Peter Josie for the leadership of the Seamen and Waterfront Workers Union..and lost. He failed to condemn the invasion of Grenada while members of his Party took wildly different stands on the issue. He refrained from criticising the Police on the Yamaha issue leaving the public with the feeling that opportunism supplanted principle. His public meetings fell below the hopes of Labour Party supporters and both his Dennery Convention and his Jambette get-together served to divide the SLP more than to unite it.

The Party Leader will arrive at La Fargue with little to crow about except the fact that the SLP has had more Press Releases and more coverage in the Voice of St. Lucia than ever before. He can also claim the mileage for having brought Solly Smith of the A.N.C. to St. Lucia but all the rest is wrapped in despondency. Even the handling of the PLP's request for cooperation must have left a bad taste in the mouth of many of Labour's rank-and-file.

The prospect of yet another five years of Comptonism must rankle in the hearts of Labourites and those Leaders responsible for shunting the Party up the primrose path of defeat must face that choice squarely at Choiseul.

Leadership 'Crisis'

Castries CRUSADER in English 21 Jun 86 p 5

[Nicholas Joseph column "Tete-a-Tete": "Labour's Crisis of Confidence"]

[Text]

On the eve of the Thirty-sixth Annual Convention of the St. Lucia Labour Party, and a crucial General Election in the offing, there is indication of a serious CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE in the leadership of the St. Lucia Labour Party.

It is clear that political Leader Julian Hunte who finds himself at the head of the Party, during the party's 34th annual convention is yet to command the respect and confidence of the stalwarts and rank-and-file of the Party. Mr. Hunte has attempted to project himself as the messiah and saviour of the S.L.P. which has transformed and given the party a "new-look", following its demise at the polls in 1982. He has tried to convey to the people and the outside world that the St. Lucia Labour Party is the most viable opposition in the country because of his leadership. Ironically, it is precisely Mr. Hunte's quality of leadership which now plagues the S.L.P. with all types of problems and which has created an acute division in the rank and file of the Labour Movement and at the executive level of the S.L.P.

The rank and file of Labour is having serious difficulties in understanding Mr. Hunte's new breed of leadership. Stalwarts of the party view the leader as suspect in their midst and sometimes question whether he is not the single obstacle to the growth, development and progress of the party. They are not able to relate to the new-thinking of their leader, which they consider to be more in line with the thinking of the United Workers Party.

They cannot understand why a leader must gloat over division and disunity and they are not prepared to allow the values and sensibilities of Labour to be destroyed by a leader who they claim may never have voted for Labour.

Mr. Hunte is aware of his predicament, in being the only political leader in the country without a political base. He has tried to acquire one through manouevring and other methods but has failed miserably. He knows that after two years since he was installed at the head of the Party without a contest, that a political base cannot be achieved through manipulation, nor can it be gained by trying to push stalwarts aside, or by spending massive sums of money in an area. He knows now it is a result of hard, dedicated and committed work among the masses. He knows that it is achieved by a symbiosis between the people and their leader. The people know their leader through the roll-and-tumble of politics, the rough times of tear-gas taking, demonstrations and an unflinching struggle in the labour movement. The people know that their leader must be firmly rooted in their struggles for better wages and improved working conditions. Admittedly, Mr. Hunte cannot claim such a necessary qualification. He cannot deny the fact that both Mr. Josie and Mr. Foster share a history of struggle with the working class, nor can he dismiss the mobilisational skills of Mr. Josie and the ability of Mr. Foster to relate to the people of Canaries and Anse-La-Raye. In fact both Mr. Josie and Mr. Foster can claim a political base in the country which Mr. Hunte does not possess.

At the 35th Annual Convention of the S.L.P. last year at Dennerly. Mr. Hunte and his cabal attempted to extract a mandate against Unity. He gave the impression that the Progressive Labour Party's offer to talk on unity had been rejected. The news media had a field day in trying to give the impression that the P.L.P. had been rejected and humiliated. The truth of the matter is that all the Progressive Labour Party did was to react to a mandate it received from its Congress to seek dialogue with the S.L.P. with a view to : "REMOVING COMPTON" from office. Mr. Hunte and his clique turned down the offer, inspite of the fact that stalwarts of the party rejected that flambeauish move.

It was at this juncture that Mr. Hunte's leadership became under closer scrutiny by his colleagues in the S.L.P. and his credibility (if any) took a nose-dive. Key personalities in the Party took strong objection to Mr. Hunte, and his cabals refusal to enter dialogue with the P.L.P. They argued that Mr. Hunte was not in touch with the political realities in the country and was deliberately keeping the parties divided. They claimed that Mr. Hunte apparently has a vested interest in keeping Compton and the United Workers Party in office. They say it is clear that the Ethiopian cannot change his skin nor the leopard its spots.

Mr. Hunte's reaction to these criticisms was to manoeuvre his way in the executive. The promise to discipline anyone who made statements contrary to the party's line, was seen as a direct response to Mr. Josie who had made it known publicly that there should be some form of dialogue between the two parties.

Mr. Hunte realizing that there was no confidence in his leadership extracted a mandate from a reduced executive, which gave him the right to choose the candidates for the forth-coming general elections.

This absolute power was taken to task at Jambette when both Kenneth Foster and Peter Josie, who were aware of moves to get rid of them demonstrated that they had won their spurs in the party and no new-comer, whose allegiance is suspect will push them around. The Jambette meeting ended in disarray without achieving its objective, and Party Leader Julian Hunte promising that no one with past indiscretions will contest the next election. As a result the crisis of confidence escalated and the leader was humiliated.

Despite radio advertisements over the last three weeks which attempt to gloss over the problems within the S.L.P.* GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT THE S.L.P. is ready for the next election, it is clear that the Party is going into its 36th Annual Convention clearly

divided against itself, and with a serious crisis of confidence at the leadership level.

The situation is so serious, that Mr. Hunte and his cabal have decided not to put his leadership on the line at this point in time. Instead a resolution will be moved calling on the party and candidates to pledge their loyalty to political leader Julian Hunte. No other political Leader in the country has found it necessary to seek a new mandate to remain at the head of his party through resolution at two successive conventions. This is clearly an indication of a lack of confidence in the rank-and-file of the Party. This is also a dangerous bit of political manoeuvring which does not auger well for democracy. It is also an indication of Mr. Hunte's desire to remain in power at all cost. The resolution claimed that the party is firmly united under the leadership of Julian Hunte. This is a vicious lie and Mr. Hunte knows it. It is common knowledge that the S.L.P. is more divided now than ever.

The 36th Annual Convention is merely cosmetic, superficial and window dressing. It will produce nothing new and the hands of the manipulators will be extended to ensure that nothing changes in Julian Hunte's Party.

But the CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE WILL REMAIN, and the plot to keep the LABOUR MASSES divided until the general election will continue to plague progress in ST. LUCIA.

Josie Election; Hunte Speech

Castries THE VOICE in English 25 Jun 86 p 3

[Text]

A key executive position for Peter Josie appeared to have been the only significant development to have taken place at the annual convention of the St. Lucia Labour Party held in Choiseul Sunday.

Josie, a former political leader who had not held any important party post since the SLP's downfall in 1982, outvoted Evans Calderon to win the position of deputy political leader. It was the only change in the central executive, and according to Party Secretary, Hilary Modeste, Josie won "quite convincingly." Outgoing deputy Political Leader, Remy Lesmond declined nomination.

In his keynote address, political leader, Julian Hunte, alerted delegates that expectations were that Sunday's Convention would be the last before the next general election and that the conclusions reached at Choiseul would mark the commencement of the SLP's election campaign.

But Hunte was still mum on his party's slate of candidates for the election race. After the conclusion of the first half of the convention, which was closed to the press, Hunte told newsmen: "We are not today going to announce candidates. We will do this as and when it becomes necessary. We have a tactical position in an election to deal with these matters."

And he reacted to Josie's election this way: "This is a democratic party, and Peter Josie is entitled, as a long standing member, to offer himself for selection. The delegates have taken a decision. I think Peter Josie is sufficiently intelligent and understands the nature of the politics and what is happening in the Party, and I have no doubt in my mind whatsoever that he will conduct himself and give a good account, to assist me in bringing the Party to victory in the forthcoming general election."

Hunte told delegates that the Convention was being held under the theme — 'Getting back to work with Labour' to stimulate party supporters' thoughts and actions to fight hard to win the impending elections.

"We must not forget, that to win this election, the St. Lucia Labour Party, coming from the depths to which certain elements had brought it by 1982, must perform at a level which we have so far not achieved in our 36 years of existence. This will be the

hardest fight that the Party will have had in its 36 years of existence," the Political Leader told the Convention.

He said that the SLP should be prepared to fight at all levels and must match the ruling United Workers Party everywhere.

Hunte continued: "We must make sure that when we hit once, they will not rise again. This is going to be the political battle of the decade and possibly, the last great one; we will ensure that we are the only party with the longevity to reach the next century."

Hunte Slap at Compton

Castries THE VOICE in English 25 Jun 86 p 3

[Text]

POLITICAL Leader of the St Lucia Labour Party (SLP), Julian Hunte, has issued a new warning to Prime Minister, John Compton: Stop treating St Lucians as second class citizens in their own country.

Delivering an address to the annual convention of the SLP Sunday, Hunte dubbed Compton 'The Minister of Expatriate Affairs' who once told St Lucians that their birth certificates were not enough qualification for working in the country.

Hunte said local contractors were walking the streets while foreign ones were getting "the little that is to be had in the construction industry" and St Lucian doctors were fleeing while expatriate doctors "seem very comfortable."

"If you give Compton a chance, the chief of police, the chief security at the port, the matron at the hospital, comptroller of Inland Revenue and even the position of Governor-General will be held by a expatriate," he told delegates.

He added: "We are not saying that we do not want expatriates to work here. What we are saying is that we want to give St. Lucia back to its citizens. As a government our work permit policy will reflect this attitude. We will ensure that we pursue a vigorous policy of self-reliance, particularly in the use of our human resources.

The Political Leader also painted the most gloomy pic-

ture of the local unemployment situation. He said:

"St. Lucia is like a cemetery. No work. People are suffering. Businesses, big and small, are on the decline. St. Lucians who have worked hard to own a home are losing both house and land because they cannot meet mortgage payments. Other St. Lucians cannot even dream about owning a home.

"Frustration is setting in. Our young people have become despondent. Drug abuse is on the increase. Prostitution is the order of the day. Crime is on the increase. Families are falling apart."

He said the Prime Minister had "sold our birthright and squandered our potential."

St Hill Address

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 28 Jun 86 p 6 and THE VOICE in English 2 Jul 86 p 9

[Apparent text of address by Lennie St Hill to annual convention of the St Lucia Labor Party at Choiseul 21-22 June 1986]

[Text]

THE St. Lucia Labour Party has given service of inestimable value to our country. We cannot allow anyone, least of all ourselves, to forget that this Party was the first political organisation to take the side of the people of St. Lucia against the impersonal and imperial bureaucracy of metropolitan colonial rule.

It sprang almost spontaneously, out of the common cause made by citizens of St. Lucia like "Pappy" Clarke and Westall, for the achievement of those parliamentary democratic freedoms in which we take great pride today.

Oh Yes. There were others who fought for those rights for us in their own way; but surely there must be special honour due to those who toiled from the rising of the sun until its rising again.

To give the honour which is due to pioneers, we remember both the living and the dead. They gave unstintingly to the cause of the underprivileged even before the phrase "benign neglect" was acceptable as a form of patronage. Today, as a result of their endeavours, St. Lucians may stand shoulder to shoulder and face to face with any man/woman in this country or abroad with no justifiable reason to feel inferior as a human being and a citizen of the World.

The roll call of our pioneers is long; but bobbing on the surface of memory to be recalled with ease are the names of Donald Bachelor James, Herman Collymore, and Burke King among the famous dead; and still among the living George Charles, Oleo Jn Baptiste, Carl LaCorbiniere, Charles Augustin and Horatius Phillips And here I must resist the temptation to go on because the list is long and our time together is short.

And although their names are not called now, I am sure that you will remember all those who have never stood in the limelight of the party's praise, but whose strong support has given impetus to the party to survive all these years as an instrument and an agency for the promotion of the welfare of all St. Lucians.

All political parties in existence in St. Lucia today, and even those that have gone into limbo or oblivion, owe their emergence and the substance of their existence however brief, to the nourishment of the St. Lucia Labour Party and the St. Lucia Labour Union and Cooperative Movement which are both almost 50 years old.

Of course it is true that there were times running into years of eclipse, when the brilliant star-light of the St. Lucia Labour Party had to be replaced by torch-light.

And there was that sad time too when there was total darkness in an abysmal and monstrous impatient greed of human nature which almost consumed us all in its avidity. The Labour Party has indeed harboured in its womb, like time eternal, both the good and the bad. Happily, we have had more of the good.

And now I have the vision of a dawn breaking when the brightest star of all our galaxy, the sun itself, is rising to give Solar Starlight to the government of St. Lucia once again. The Labour Party has never failed St. Lucia in its hour of need.

The Ministerial system of Government in St. Lucia is barely 30 years old; and the St. Lucia Labour Party was the original parliamentary group to whom the initiation of this instrument of democratic government administration was entrusted; and to whom indeed the instruments for the responsibility of representative government under universal adult suffrage were handed over.

For these reasons and for many more, the history of this Party commands the respect of all St. Lucians, and it invokes a justifiable pride among those who, through thick and thin, through good times and the bad and the dread, have lived to see this day, and to stand at the gate of the future, looking onto the bright prospects of a land which God has given to each of us to be born in, and to love.

It is my great pleasure, and a humble duty to my fellow St. Lucians that I perform today, when I look back briefly on the times we have passed, and the road along which we have come, and we look forward together to those events and times which we must be prepared to meet day by day as they come.

We must prepare ourselves and every generation that will proudly bear the name St. Lucian, for the blessings of the Promise of God on a Community that strives to live in peace and unity in obedience to the Commandments of God which are written indelibly in our consciences.

God's blessing is ours when we prepare ourselves to receive it. His curse will be our lot forever if we do not. St. Lucia expects every man will do his duty to win a blessing.

On the eve of that momentous Battle of Trafalgar just before the Admiral Lord Nelson's fleet engaged the enemy, he signalled "England, expect every man will do his duty." The Battle that lies ahead of the St. Lucia Labour Party within the next twelve months (or less) is every bit as momentous for St. Lucia as Trafalgar was for Nelson and for England. And so Lord Nelson's battle signal of exhortation is appropriately adaptable: "St. Lucia, expect every man will do his duty."

I enjoin you to pray with me that the words which I am inspired to speak to you this day may not lead us into the temptation of empty boasting and sterile recriminations, but into a fertile valley of ideas which we can cultivate with profitable fruit to the lasting benefit of all St. Lucia.

Looking back in anger is not for us

Looking down in shame is not for us

Looking around our situation in despair is not for us

Looking up, and looking forward, even when we are bent double under the cross we have to bear (and sometimes even the double-cross)... This is the task to which, with unremitting zeal we must commit ourselves daily from now on. Your duty is to look up and get up and go forward together. St. Lucia, expect every man will do his duty.

The problem which attracts our attention today is the same lack of organisation by which the St. Lucia Labour Party was threatened with extinction in 1964 and 1982 when splinter groups formed coalitions of convenience to defeat a party that had lost control of its direction and had become irresolute in indiscipline.

I am not inclined toward the form of adversary politics which divides a nation and separates its people from one another so that they become permanently polarized into aggressive opposite camps. If a political party exists to represent one side of a question, I like to believe that the presentation of the other side of the same question by another party will contribute to the resolution of the problem for the benefit of the country as a whole, without acrimony, bitterness or a feudalspite.

It is our privilege to practise a system of democracy which has established the supremacy of the people over their representatives in parliament, and the supremacy of parliament over the Queen as titular Head of State. Under that same system, those of you who are delegates here today are responsible to those who have sent you here. For the system to work effectively it is the duty of every delegate to search his conscience, and to use that conscience as a reflector of the will of the people who appointed him/her as representatives. If the delegate is true to his conscience, he cannot be false to those whom he represents.

It may very well be that among those of you who are delegates to the annual conference of the party, some may be nominated and elected to sit in the House of Assembly. Your responsibilities there

will be first and foremost to make and amend the laws by which the majority agrees to live with compassion for the minority.

Learning to be tolerant of the views and opinions of other people (with equal responsibilities) is not easy. The process begins with the difficult but rewarding effort of organising our own opinions and learning to live with ourselves and those who agree with us. Sometimes we are so anxious to have our own way in life and in politics, that we make enemies of our best friends, especially when we deliberately try to use them as tools to serve our selfish ends.

Nobody likes to be used in this way. Many of you will unfortunately have to learn this sad lesson the hard way of rejection at the polls, when the people whom you seek to represent discover that you only intend to use them as stepping stones to heights of self-glorification. Be honest with the people, and they will be honest with you.

DISCIPLINE

The necessary discipline of a well organised political party will teach its delegates to listen carefully to the sounds that their people are making, and to note carefully the messages which are being sent to the Organising Centre. Delegates should keep as close as possible to their constituents and faithfully represent the mission on which they are sent. If you carry those messages faithfully and carefully, the reward of such diligence is usually a resounding success at the polls. If you falsify by wishful thinking or by lies that flatter your own ego, the end is catastrophic ruin for the party in the first instance, and eventually for the candidate himself.

People cannot support a Party or anything if they do not know and understand what it stands for. It is the duty of the delegate to explain to his constituents what the Party stands for, the delegate also has the responsibility of relating to the Party what his constituents will not stand for. It is here that the work of Party organisation begins. When it is well done, the party succeeds, when it is done indifferently, the party remains in eclipse.

St. Lucia expects every man will do his duty. What does St. Lucia expect of the Labour Party today?

The Expectation is that the history of the Labour Party will be honoured.

That the dignity of Labour will be restored and maintained continually.

That the integrity of Labour will be preserved.

That the success of the Labour Party and the prosperity of St. Lucia which hangs on it, will be assured.

The history of the Labour Party is that it has tried to adhere to the principle that the value of a human being cannot be measured by any commodity, and that the value of a human being is his intrinsic self respect and the contribution which as a human person, he is capable of making to the good order of the group of people among whom he/she lives.

The principles of the Labour Party attempt to create an integrated society in which every man is occupied with being happy and helping others to be happy.

The Labour Party believes that St. Lucia must produce a working force of its human resources which is organised to meet the challenge of competition in productive employment, with the rest of the world. CARICOM is only a small part of the rest of the world in which St. Lucia has to make a living for its citizens.

THE Labour Party believes that the most effective working force is one which takes pride in the job at hand and understands the real dignity or worthiness of Labour as the product of our God given human resources.

In restoring and maintaining the dignity of Labour in St. Lucia, the Labour Party believes that every agricultural labourer must think of himself not as someone-else's slave, but as a farmer who takes a keener interest in the work which falls under his hands to be done. He must care for the land and the cultivations and the animals of his husbandry as if they were his own. His reward is that [by such diligence the land will indeed belong to him, and the meek shall inherit the earth according to God's promise. If Labour does not think intelligently for itself, it will remain in bondage to other interests....less worthy of its own dignity.

YIELDING

Labour knows that God's gift to St. Lucia are its people and the land which they inhabit. When these gifts are combined by appropriate organisation they are capable of yielding the very Capital or money value of which we so often in awe and worship like a god.

Labour believes in the value of the human being for himself and not merely as a machine in an assembly line or a plaything of the State. These are some of the things that St. Lucia is entitled to learn about its Labour Party and the hopes which they have for the Country.

The emergence of St. Lucia as an independent sovereign state under the provisions of the Saint Lucia Constitution Order 1978 made in England, cannot remain the ultimate definition of the liberties and freedoms and responsibilities of a sovereign St. Lucia people.

As a free people, we have the duty not only to repatriate the Constitution of St. Lucia which Canada did not do for over 100 years, but to examine more closely the constitution of the state of independence on which we are already embarked.

Do we, for example, as a majority of St. Lucians, believe in a symbolic and "constitutional monarchy" which is inextricably bound up in a government of the kind which Mrs. Thatcher's Conservative Party represents by alliance with Mr. Botha's Republic of South Africa in preference to the Commonwealth?

Have we ever since 1979 given any thought to the possibility of appropriate amendments to the Constitution of Saint Lucia as the first step to inviting the people of St. Lucia to discuss the conditions of our Statehood in sovereignty at a more deliberate rate than the haste in which we obtained independence in February 1979?

St. Lucia is entitled to the benefit of the Labour Party's ideas on such matters. The St. Lucia Labour Party itself should be mindful of the agony which it endured as the constitutional crisis of leadership during 1979-82 exposed the loopholes in the nation's constitution and the constitution and by-laws of the Labour Party itself.

During preliminary discussion, and that is all we ever had, of the St. Lucia Constitution in 1978, I wrote "It is not sufficient to say that because independence itself is desirable, its form is not significant. In fact, an inappropriate vehicle for independence would seriously impair the practice of national sovereignty long after the ceremonies had been performed." I WAS RIGHT. It was not six months afterwards that the seams began to split.

Indeed the rift is endemic in the constitution which does not make provision for the separation of the powers of the House of Assembly and the responsibilities of the Executive which must be accountable to the Legislature.

Integrity

You cannot put a cat in charge of cream and not expect the cat to lick it. A mile high stack of integrity legislation will not achieve what the separation of legislature from the executive will do. You cannot ask delegates to delegate authority which is given to them and you cannot expect accountability of the executive to parliament, if the executive itself is in parliament and in full control of the institution.

More and more in our system of parliamentary democracy, we see the people voting not for a representative of their constituency on the merit of the individual candidate, but for the IMAGE of a party leader. This leads to the greatest possible confusion when the party leader appointed by the party, is not elected to the House of Assembly, or when someone who is elected to the House of Assembly believes himself to be more popular or competent than the leader whom the party has elected.

All this suggests that the Chief Executive of the Government should be popularly elected as such, and that to be accountable to the House of Assembly, he cannot be in a position to vote on matters where the confidence of the House of Assembly in him and in his policies as Chief Executive is concerned. St. Lucia is entitled to know the thinking of the Labour party on issues of this kind, and the Labour Party should be prepared to represent the wishes of the people by introduction of the appropriate laws under amendment of the constitution as may be necessary.

St. Lucia cannot afford the agony of another constitutional crisis such as it endured in 1981 and 82. The Labour party must therefore prepare the means of avoiding a repetition of that trauma.

Deliberate thought must be given to the means of making the Legislature most effective as the Assembly of Representatives of the people exercising their sovereignty over the Executive, and getting people into the Legislature who understand the importance of their function there, and appointing competent policy makers to the Executive or Cabinet as an autonomous body which is accountable to the House of Assembly.

Let me now summarise the form and effect of the modern political party as a model for the St. Lucia Labour Party.

The modern political party is essentially a non-profit, voluntary and charitable public company limited by guarantee of its members, and in that sense, it is a cooperative society.

Its aims are to provide, by the influence of its organisation, for the welfare of the electorate in general, and in particular, to select suitable representation at all levels of democratic government on issues that are of vital importance to the nation. In this respect, ideology is less important than form of organisation and efficiency, because the ideological demands of the electorate as a whole are so varied and transient, that they are almost impossible to contain in any edict that is written as if "engraved on tablets of stone".

The function of the political party is to inform public opinion, articulate the practicable consensus in the legislative process which establishes acceptable custom, and to implement decisions of a delegate executive that are consistent with the practicable consensus. This makes a political party as essentially pragmatic as any other business organisation.

Comparing the political party organisation with that of a trading or business enterprise, it will be evident that very few successful businesses have an exclusive clientele and a sole supplier of merchandise or service when NUMBERS or VOLUME are significant factors of the trade. Exclusive businesses are comparable to political parties that are geared for dictatorship. The same organisation which produces exclusivity and monopoly in business results in elitism and totalitarianism in politics.

All of this is not to say that a political party should have no statement of the principles or ideology by which it will be bound in its conduct. Such principles however, must represent the highest common factor of the total electorate's ethics. It must be populist to the extent that it appeals to the best in everybody. Above all, it must appeal universally to the preservation of the democratic system which created it, by which means alone it can survive, and in which it participates to influence for good, the government of the community of which it is a part.

It is significant that the problems of political parties appear to be centred in the leadership and ideology from which the body takes its motivation and by which its dynamism is sustained. But these features — leadership and ideology — are themselves created by organisation whose form is reflected in its product. A dictatorship is born out of chaos, with fascism or other forms of totalitarianism for a creed or doctrine. A dictator thrives on chaos or lack of organisation, and on the uncertainty out of which his arbitrary edict appears like lightning even to the blind.

ENTERPRISE

A democratic organisation reproduces itself in the self discipline of its members and their free enterprise systems. This self discipline is the fruit of a proper education in the sense of being well informed about the issues on which decisions of importance are required to be reached by consensus. The political party which is based on these principles will endure and promote prosperity through the practice of democracy.

So much for party organisation as a vehicle for the promotion of ideas for national development. What of some of the ideas which St. Lucia may expect from the Labour Party as a policy guide for development in which people are valued for their own worth, and the dignity of labour is preserved?

At our stage of development, there is no room or time for sterile and devious procrastination. We have one direction that is favourable to us. We must go straight forward. We have one attitude that gives us the best prospect of our future. We must look up. We have one duty that is in our best interest. We must work together to restore the dignity of Labour.

God has given us this land and our labour. He expects us to put these talents to good use so that we may realise His promise and His purpose in our lives. We cannot fail. We dare not fail Him.

Do you have a will to win? Will you work to win?

St. Lucia, expect every man to do his duty according to his promise.

Hunte Interview

Castries CRUSADER in English 28 Jun 86 pp 4, 9

[Article: "As Hunte Sees It"]

[Text]

The St. Lucia Labour Party held its thirty-six Annual Convention at Lafargue, Choiseul, last Sunday.

Immediately after the closed session, members of the local media engaged Party Leader Julian Hunte in a press conference. Today we carry an edited version of Mr. Hunte's interview. In his interview Mr. Hunte stated that there will be no dialogue with the P.L.P. and that the S.L.P. will fight the general election as a separate party.

INTERVIEW - JULIAN HUNTE

VOICE: The General feeling was that you would use this Convention to actually identify candidates or make public candidates and their constituencies. What happened along those lines?

JULIAN HUNTE: WE THINK THAT AS A PARTY WE HAVE OUR OWN STRATEGY. It's the same way that people thought that when we had the symposium at Anse

Jambette that it was supposed to select candidates, this wasn't so. What we did then was to have a general discussion on the state of the party and allowed people to air their views, and what they were supposed to air their views on, which they did, was what strategy should we use for the selection of candidates. Here we have an annual conference with a written agenda. We are not today going to announce candidates. We will do this as and when it becomes necessary. We are under no obligation to select candidates or to name candidates. I think we have a tactical position in an election to deal with this matter.

VOICE: The election of Peter Josie as Deputy Political Leader this morning, may cause some surprise in certain circles, especially he has been looked upon as the guy who perhaps Mr. Hunte would like to get out of the Party for closer unity, which has been argued in the past. How do you see his election?

JULIAN HUNTE: Your choice of words seems rather interesting. I don't want to get anybody out of the Party. This is a democratic party. I think you can see for yourself what transpired this morning and Peter Josie is entitled as a member of this party (a long standing member) to offer himself and in offering himself for election the delegates have taken a decision. I think Peter Josie is sufficiently intelligent and understands the nature of the politics and what is happening in the party, and I have no

doubt in my mind whatsoever that he will conduct himself and give a good account of the responsibility which has been placed on his shoulders to assist ME in terms of bringing the Party a victory, at the forth-coming general elections.

CRUSADER: Mr. Hunte if you are going into an election soon as you indicated, probably after the Pope's visit, has your convention considered at all the question of dialogue between the two opposition Parties?

JULIAN HUNTE: There is nothing on the agenda dealing with this. I notice that you have had quite a lot to say. One of the things that you have said is that as though some people have taken delight in trying to afford the question of dialogue. I am head of a party and I take my direction from the party. We have chosen at this particular point in time not to have any dialogue with the Progressive Labour Party, and that is as it stands.

CRUSADER: But don't you see the question of dialogue as a crucial matter if an election is called soon?

JULIAN HUNTE: I am fighting the election as the Leader of the St. Lucia Labour Party. My first consideration is to ensure that the St. Lucia Labour Party is returned to power as the Government of this country. All other considerations take second place.

JOE COX: What is your strategy for the months ahead?

JULIAN HUNTE: What we have to do now is to galvanise the party into dealing with the issues. I think a number of the issues are at the front. As far as we are concerned Compton has failed to deliver the goods, and we are going to be putting these issues fairly and squarely to the general public. We are going to mount a campaign that probably St Lucia has never seen before, in terms of letting people know what our views are on certain fundamental issues as it relates to the social and economic problems of this country. Where we think St Lucia is today, where we would like to see St Lucia, how we would like to see it develop. The whole question as to what is in it for the people of this country. Whether we are developing as a people, or whether all we are doing is just allowing people to come in here and do what we should be doing for ourselves. We are going to be pushing for St Lucians to understand that we feel we are in the period of self-reliance. We feel that it is necessary to take this country by the scruff of the neck and settle down to doing serious work, as it relates to the social and economic development of this country and that we have to do it for ourselves. So the human development is going to take precedence over projects and this is what the St Lucia Labour Party is all about.

VOICE: Mr Hunte, there has been predictions, unofficially and wayside comments, about parties winning seats and getting their quota of seats. There doesn't seem to be an official way to measure support for any particular candidate or party. If you are very confident that your party will go on to form the next Government, what would be your basis for making such a prediction?

JULIAN HUNTE: Well, I really don't understand the question. What I would say is that there are several areas of trying to sort out these things. You can have a public poll. But I believe that if you are close...when you are fighting an election, let's say we have been going out into the areas over the last two and a half years. We have a feel for what people are thinking and what they want. I think the best judge is how we feel people are reacting to our party. In this way I would think and I would hope and I feel we are reasonably confident. But in the final analysis, in a democracy, it is how people vote and who comes out on top. The Barbados Labour Party felt confident that they were going to win the last General Election. It turned out that it was a landslide victory in favour of the Democratic Labour Party. So from our own point of view we know that what we have to do, to bring victory home, is to work.

VOICE: What assurances or guarantees do you have that you command a significant enough popular support in the country?

JULIAN HUNTE: Mr Nicholas said that I don't have a base. My popular support is here today and in the coming months leading up to the elections and after. This is not the only election I will be fighting. I will be fighting down the line. My popular support is what I have here, which is the St Lucia Labour Party of which I am the political leader. In the country as a whole, as far as I am concerned is something that you will have too...

VOICE: So you're still unprepared to disclose in which constituency you will be running?

JULIAN HUNTE: What constituency I will be running for? I think you will appreciate that the tactical stands which this party has been able to employ over the past three years has been most rewarding. At the appropriate time all things shall be revealed to you.

/9317

CSO: 3298/521

ST LUCIA

COMPTON WITHDRAWS CONSUMPTION TAX; 'ERRORS' QUESTIONED

Announcement in Parliament

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 21 Jun 86 p 1

[Text]

THE Government has withdrawn its latest consumption tax order in the face of some public protest.

During the meeting of the House of Assembly on Tuesday, Prime Minister John Compton informed the Speaker that he did not intend to proceed with the Order which sought to revise certain items of consumption duties.

He told the Speaker that there were a number of errors in the instrument and duties were levied on some items such as locally produced aerated drinks and ice cream which were never intended by Cabinet.

In addition the Chamber of Commerce has pointed out certain anomalies which put the locally produced items in an unfavourable position when compared with imported items. These anomalies are to be corrected.

The Prime Minister gave the House the undertaking that there will be a comprehensive review of the consumption duties and all representations will be taken into account.

Questions for Government

Castries THE VOICE in English 25 Jun 86 p 2

[From M*A*S*H column "Odds 'n' Ends"]

[Text]

IF Prime Minister John Compton is telling the nation the absolute and utter truth when he says that some of the consumption tax increases announced in the Gazette were never authorised by his Cabinet, then really, something is radically wrong with the machinery of Government.

It's either a genuine error or there are people in the administration trying to make the Government look bad. And if this is the case, then there must be a motive.

But for some reason best known to himself, and possibly a few of his Ministers, the Prime Minister is showing no interest in digging a little to find out what these errors, if they are errors, are really all about.

/9317
CSO: 3298/521

ST LUCIA

ELECTIONS SUPERVISOR COMMENTS ON UPDATING OF VOTER LISTS

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 28 Jun 86 p 1

[Article by David Vitalis]

[Text]

THE names of dozens of dead people are being struck off the national voters' lists as the Electoral Office presses ahead with its task of updating the register, and enhancing its state of readiness for any possible early election.

Elections are constitutionally due by August, next year, but there is some speculation among the public and especially the opposition parties that the country might go to the polls well in advance of the deadline.

REQUIRED

Supervisor of Elections, Justin McClair Daniel, admits that he is just as uninformed as any member of the public on the election date but that his office is going ahead with its normal work as required by law. And he says the machinery is always ready in the event of a premature election.

What is now happening at the Electoral Office, according to Daniel, is the revision of the 1982 list of voters using the house-to-house method as an experiment. Such revisions are necessary and mandated by law in order to update the list and to prevent fraud by deleting the names of dead persons, to facilitate changes of address, to avoid duplications in the registration process, and to add on new, qualified electors, among other things.

Daniel says that the house-to-house method of revision is new and the experiment in Central Castries is yielding excellent results. He says that an islandwide house-to-house

operation is due to start at the beginning of next month.

But the Supervisor of Elections says that at this time he cannot be specific on the percentage increase of the final list. "A lot of young people who have qualified for voting age are registering. There are a number of people who have attained the age of 18 years between 1982 and now but I am unable to say the exact number," says Daniel.

There were more than 70,000 names on the 1982 election voters list.

Daniel says that allegations of fraud by a particular political party following the 1982 elections have not affected his Office's operations at all. He says the accusations of chemically treated ballot papers which changed colours after they had been dropped into ballot boxes were untrue and unfounded.

"The whole thing as I see it is that...politicians feel that they have a responsibility to themselves and their supporters to keep their political image intact...as far as we in the Electoral Office are concerned we do our work and once we have done nothing wrong, allegations of fraud do not affect us," asserts Daniel.

He adds that a different kind of electoral ink used during the 1982 elections may have caused some of the allegations.

According to the Supervisor of Elections: "We have always printed our ballot papers at the Government Printery. We do not produce the electoral ink in this country and we usually get it from Canada. The last time we were lucky that we got it from Canada. I went for it myself. It was a kind of ink stain which stays on the finger for a considerable amount of time, whereas the invisible ink we used to have before could have been rubbed off easily.

"You see, what happened the last time is that the stain was red and because the voters were required to dip their fingers in the stain before they were handed the ballot paper, the ballot paper was stained as a result..."

But Daniel adds that it will be left to the Electoral Commission whether the voters' hands should be stained with ink before they are handed the ballot paper.

/9317

CSO: 3298/521

ST LUCIA

LABOR PROBLEMS BESET GOVERNMENT, CIVIL, BANANA WORKERS

Disputes Before Ministry

Castries THE VOICE in English 2 Jul 86 p 1

[Text]

AT least six industrial disputes are now before the Labour Department, Labour Commissioner, Hedwige Rosemond disclosed yesterday.

He said that most of the issues involved disagreements over wages but one was a tussle between the Seamen, Waterfront and General Workers Union and the St. Lucia Workers Union for control of Hotel La Toc workers.

Rosemond said that his department was even expecting a seventh dispute to reach it, sooner or later. That one, he said, was likely to be between the Water and Sewerage Authority and the National Workers Union.

The Labour Commissioner said the impasse between the St. Lucia Banana Growers Association and Civil Service Association was the latest problem to reach his Department but he would have to settle other issues before tackling it.

One of the major issues awaiting the conciliatory process is the 'backpay' affair between Public Servants and the Civil Service Association which Rosemond said he would "handle" either this week or early next week.

The SLBGA-CSA wage disagreement was referred to the Labour Department for conciliation last week when the parties reached a definite stalemate. The CSA is demanding a 20 per cent wage increase over two years but the management of SLBGA is proposing 10 per cent.

CSA President, David Demarque, told THE VOICE yesterday that SLBGA workers had indicated their preparedness to undertake industrial action. He said no date had yet been set nor had any decision been taken on what form of action the workers would pursue.

According to Demarque, the Board of Directors of the SLBGA had acted contrary to the norms of collective bargaining when it rejected a final offer of a 12 per cent wage hike proposed by its own management negotiating team.

The most aggravating aspect of the disagreement be-

tween the SLBGA and the CSA is the fact that the Board of Directors of SLBGA has followed the precedence set by Government. Like Government, the Board has refused to abide by conditions and agreements duly negotiated at the table on its behalf," the CSA said.

General Manager of the SLBGA, Michael Lansiquot, told THE VOICE that the Association could not afford to accede to the CSA request of a 20 per cent increase because the banana industry was barely recovering from recent losses.

He said that in view of any industrial action by workers, management would ensure that "some skeleton staff" would be available to ship bananas to the United Kingdom.

According to the General Manager, any industrial action would be unfortunate because in the end "everybody is going to lose..."

Civil Servants' Strike

Castries CRUSADER in English 5 Jul 86 p 8

[Text]

This week Civil Servants on the island at a General Meeting of the St. Lucia Civil Service Association voted unanimously to take strike action.

The Civil Service Association and the Government are at loggerheads over the Government's decision to change the effective date of the collective bargaining agreement between the Association and Government.

If the Government succeeds in its plan to change the effective date of the agreement from the base year 1983 to 1984, Civil Servants will forfeit an entire year's back-pay.

The Civil Service Association argues that the Cabinet decision to alter the effective date of an agreement which was arrived at in good faith by the Association is a breach of confidence, and expresses Government's total disregard for the bargaining process.

Prime Minister John Compton in his Budget Address this year viciously attacked public servants. He said that they were making "Unconscionable" demands which they knew the country could not afford. The Prime Minister attempted to divide the workers by making it appear that it was the

demands by public servants which prevented Government from paying attention to other sectors of the economy.

This week in the aftermath of the Civil Servant's decision to go on strike the Prime Minister cut-short his meeting at the Heads of Government Conference in Guyana and returned home. The Government is yet to react to the Civil Service decision to take strike action. Prime Minister John Compton has persistently said that his Government cannot pay.

At a public meeting at Denbarr recently, the Prime Minister told a booing crowd that he will pay no backpay.

Mr. Compton's attitude reflects the 1979 pre-Independence and election period when Compton promised not to pay public servants their back-pay even if a gun was placed to his head.

Political observers here say that it appears that not even the Visit of the Pope can change the arrogance of the Prime Minister.

It appears that as soon as the Pope departs from our shores on Monday, the Prime Minister will have striking Civil Servants on his hands.

Castries CRUSADER in English 5 Jul 86 p 9

[Text]

On Friday workers at the St. Lucia Banana Growers Association again reported sick. This is the second time in less than one month that the workers have taken such action.

Negotiations between the St. Lucia Banana Growers Association and the St. Lucia Civil Service Association reached a deadlock some two weeks ago. The talks which have been going on between the two associations have failed to agree on salaries and wage increases for monthly and daily paid staff. The composition of some fringe benefits are also in dispute.

The St. Lucia Civil Service Association is seeking a 20 percent wage hike over a two year period but the Management of SLBGA is offering 10 percent over the same period.

In a press release issued this week the C.S.A. noted that Management had taken an intransigent and unflexible stance on the matter, despite the fact that the C.S.A. had shown its flexibility and willingness to arrive at an amicable settlement.

The full text of the release is as follows:

Negotiations for the 1986/ 87 collective agreement between the St. Lucia Banana Growers Association and the St. Lucia Civil Service Association has reached a deadlock.

Dis-agreement has surfaced in the talks that have lasted for five months on the issue surrounding salaries and wage increases for monthly and daily-paid staff. The composition of some fringe benefits are also in dispute.

The CSA's request for a 20 percent increase over two years has been based on the SLBGA's ability to pay. With this position, the Union indicated its flexibility and approach to reach an amicable settlement.

The Board of Directors of the S.L.B.G.A., on the other hand, has indicated its position of 10 percent increase over two years to be final and has taken an intransigent stance in the matter.

The more aggravating aspect of the disagreement between the S.L.B.G.A. and the C.S.A. is the fact that the Board of Directors of S.L.B.G.A. has followed the precedence set by Government. Like Government, the board of Directors of the S.L.B.G.A. has refused to abide to conditions and Agreement duly negotiated at the table on its behalf.

The Management, who has been given a mandate to negotiate on behalf of the Board, made an offer of 12 percent over two years. The Board of Directors has reneged on this offer and has proposed 10 percent instead.

The Management of the SLBGA has referred the matter to the Labour Commissioner for concil-

liation. In the meantime, the staff of the SLBGA has voted unanimously for industrial action.

The matter is now before the Labour Commissioner.

The Crusader is informed that Minister of Agriculture Ira D'auvergne allegedly told S.L.B.G.A not to pay more than 10 percent.

One irate worker was quick to

point out that a 57 percent pay hike to Ministers was not too much, but 20 percent for those who do the work is considered too much by the Minister.

It is unclear as to the effect of the sick-out, but a source informed the Crusader, that Fridays are usually very busy days at the SLBGA office and the action is bound to be effective.

Criticism of Government

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 5 Jul 86 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

WE note with alarm that the dispute between the Civil Service Association remains unresolved. In fact, it seems quite clear that so long as this situation remains the industrial and political stability of this country is threatened.

The CSA is claiming that the Government on its own, decided to alter clauses in a new collective agreement made in discussions between the CSA and a negotiating team appointed by Cabinet.

The Government is not responding to these allegations. Rather, it has explained why it cannot meet additional backpay for public servants which the agreement guarantees, the provision it allegedly altered.

We have already stated quite clearly how we see this whole issue: We continue to deplore the action of the Government as being high handed and unjust. On the other hand, we do not share the view that this Government or any Government at this time, for that matter, should have had to find money to pay back pay to civil servants, given the economic circumstances of the country.

Public servants, by no stretch of the imagination, can be referred to as rich people. But by and large, they remain well paid and some even say they are overpaid and under-productive.

We cannot see why a poor country like St. Lucia should have an almost continuous basis to find money to award backpay to public servants when there are so many other desperate situations that need attention.

Last week, we celebrated Mental Health Week, and perhaps our public servants should have taken time off to visit the mental hospital and inquire into the very poor conditions that obtain there, and cry out for solution. The same can be said for nearly every other health institution in the country. The same can be said about the level of social services that cater for the people in the rural areas, the poor, the needy and the underprivileged. Are they not St. Lucians too? Don't they deserve to aspire to the same standard of living that our public servants now enjoy?

We ask: where is the social justice in a system that will continue to create imbalances in the benefits that accrue to St. Lucians from their toil and sweat?

Contrary to what we have heard in some quarters on this issue, we do not believe that it's simply a question of the ability of the Government to find the money to pay. More than that, is the question of whether it is wise, whether it is just and whether it is the sensible thing to do given all the economic facts of St. Lucia in 1986.

But the Government stands condemned for its high handedness, which has set a precedent that others are already beginning to follow. It is

happening now, according to the CSA, at the Banana Growers Association, where yesterday, employees staged their second sickout in recent days.

Here is another case where the Board of Directors of the Association has allegedly gone against a decision of its team which negotiated with the CSA. There too industrial unrest is brewing.

We have no desire to bring Pope John Paul into local politics, but it occurs to us that the Government has played a major role in bringing him to this country on Monday. Wherever he goes the Pontiff has preached some of the many virtues that are in short supply everywhere these days: justice, unity, fairplay, among others.

It is our hope that he will speak in the same vein when he addresses us and that all St. Lucians will listen, so that immediately after the Pontiff leaves, Government and union leaders will sit down and hammer out a final and just solution — just all round — to this threatening problem.

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CSO: 3298/521

ST LUCIA

MODERN FISHING COMPLEX PLANNED FOR SOUFRIERE

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 14 Jun 86 p 1

[Text]

SOUFRIERE is to get a modern fisheries complex.

The announcement was made by that town's Parliamentary Representative, Lennard Riviere, last week. Riviere was at the time expressing his government's gratitude to the International Whaling Commission for its donation of a cold storage facility to the Soufriere fishing industry.

Also present at the handing over ceremony were Joe Allain, First Secretary in the St. Lucia High Commission in London, who negotiated with the Whaling Commission for the storage unit, and Acting Chief Fisheries Officer, Nigel Lawrence.

Riviere said that the proposed fisheries complex would be constructed at Coin de L'ance at an estimated cost of \$2 million. Major financing would come from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) whose officials were due here in September to sign an agreement in that regard.

According to Lawrence the complex will be constructed in two phases. Phase one, which is expected to be completed within the next five years, will include proper fish marketing stalls to avoid the sale of fish on the roads; locker rooms to store engines, gasoline and tools; facilities to keep nets; and benches to drag canoes along the shore.

Phase two of the project will be the installation of more elaborate cold storage facilities.

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